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DOHA (AFP) — Israel and Qatar will sign an agreement to establish air tinks, which will be the first between the Jewish state and a Gulf Arab country, a Oatan official said Sunday. "An Israeli delegation, including officials from the civil aviation, will visit Doha next week to sign an agreement," he told AFP, asking not to be named. He said the "Israeli authorities have sent a letter to Quar, urging that bilateral relations be strengthened through an accord to exploit air transport between Tel Aviv and Doha." Under the proposed agreement, "an air liaison between Tel Aviv and Doha would be opened," he added, without specifying Which company would exploit it. Qatar and Israel do not have diplomatic relations but Doha has taken several steps over the past few months for a rapprochement with the Jewish state. Qatar's Information and Culture Minister Hamad Abdul Aziz Al Kawari attended Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral on Monday, while Israel last month signed a letter of intention to buy Qatari gas through U.S. company Enron. Qatar and Israel are also in talks over the opening of trade representation offices.

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

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AMMAN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1995, JUMADA THANI 20, 1416

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remonies Salue Combined agency dispatches

France's W. ACTING PRIME Minister sterans is 110 % Shimoo Peres promised on Sunday to follow slain leader Yitzhak Rabin's path to sic drowned peace but assailed the "deby Sri Lank said stood in the way.

Speaking at an emononal memorial ceremony of his ruling Labour Pariy, Mr. ABO (R) Peres, politicians and Mr. 1 the north of Rabin's family voiced bitterout the band we ness and sorrow over killing 1. The Sri L of the 73-year-old prime monic Plate minister by a Jewish gunman has downed in Mr. Peres. 73. who shared

and cancelled the Nobel Peace Prize with the season, and Mr. Rabin and leader Yasser aid Saturday Arafat in 1994, said Israel nent has urged, had no choice but to "cons Sri Lankans to tinue to pave (the way of n parties, bang peace) so that the children meral having, who cried on his grave will oldiers die bait not have to shed a tear in the

he orchestra c crowd of 3,000, including "due to the pre ambassadors from the United ation in the con-States, Egypt and Jordan, new of showing that there were "a lot of people on the edge of insanity who think they are God's messengers. In fact they are s four remar devil's disciples."

Mr. Rabin's widow Leah s would be recmeanwhile urged Israelis to pursue his quest for peace as she told a memorial rally of more than 200,000 people bal warmin that his death would not be in

It was an emotional return for the premier's widow to the square in Tel Aviv where ON (R) - G eight days earlier Mr. Rabin g could increas was shot dead at the end of a

> (Continued on page 7) Israel eases closure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AFP) - Israeli authorides

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each second PARIS (R) — Several hun-estimated 60 dred people demonstrated in

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A clim zhak Rabio, an army spokes-



Leah Rabin, wife of late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, touches his grave in the Mount Herzl cemetery in West Jerusalem on Sunday, the last day of seven days of traditional Jewish mourning for the dead (AFP photo)

Crown Prince delivers message from King to Bahraini Emir, reviews ties

BAHRAIN (Agencies) - The Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, on Sunday received His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who delivered to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

It is the first visit of a leading Jordanian figure to Bahrain since the 1991 Gulf war and is seen as yet another strong sign of improvement in Jordan's relations with the Gulf states after a four-year strain.

Petra said Crown Prince Hassan, who arrived here earlier in the day on a two-day visit in response to an invitation from Bahraini Crown Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al-Khalifa, and Sheikh Isa discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Bahrain cooperation and increasing consultations between the two countries.

Sheikh Isa paid tribute to the outcome of the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman and lauded the efforts that Jordan exerted to make the conference a success, leading the way for widening the scope of cooperation among the countries of the re-

The Crown Prince emphasised the need to broaden the base for active participation by the countries of the region and the role that Bahrain could play as an important intemational financial and commercial centre in the Gulf and

Sheikh Isa requested Prince Hassan to convey his greetings and best wishes to King Hussein on his 60th birthday and wished the Monarch continued good health and

The meeting was attended by the Bahraini prime minister and the Crown prince in addition to senior officials. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Sharif Jamil Ben Nasser, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabanti, and the Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain.

On his way from Jordan to Bahrain and while he was flying through Saudi Arabia's airspace, Crown Prince Hassan sent a cable of good wishes to King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, wishing him and the Saudi family and people continued progress and prosperity.

Upon his arrival here, the Crown Prince was received by Sheikh Hamad, who is also commander of the Bahraini defence forces, and senior Bahraini officials.

The Crown Prince's talks in Bahrain would deal with Jordanian-Bahraini relations as well as moves to follow up and implement the decisions taken by the MENA summit on institutionalising regional cooperation as well as the status of efforts to realise a strong private sector role in developing the region.

accompanying the Crown Prince on the visit to Bahrain.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday receive Spain's Queen Sofia upon her arrival in Amman to congratulate the King on his 60th birthday

King attends Mafraq rally, voices pride in Jordanians

MAFRAQ (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday addressed a public rally held at Mafraq Gov-ernorate as part of the King-dom's celebration of the King's 60th birthday expressing his appreciation to the Jordanian people and pride in belonging to the Jordanian fa<u>mil</u>y.

"The moments which I spend with you here are the most beautiful and most pleasant to me and I feel proud among my men and

people," King Hussein said. Referring to his younger years, the King said that he had to assume responsibility for the people and lead the struggle for construction at an early age and had to return to Jordan for this responsibility, thus losing the education.

"I have committed myself to live with you and for you and amongst you, drawing strength and resolve from my people to face the dangers and the challenges." King Hussein told the rally, which was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Lower House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour.

Patliament members and

King receives birthday wishes Rabin wrote weeks before death

KING HUSSEIN has re- says; "On the occasion of ceived a birthday wish from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, written to him weeks before his assassina-

Mr. Rabin gave the letter to Jordanian photographer Zohrab Markarian in his Jerusalem office in early October during a meeting while the latter was shooting pictures for a new book, dedicated to the Monarch, who turns 60 on Tuesday.

"Mr. Rabin took out his pen and wrote a happy birtbday letter to King Hussein and gave it to me to be included in the first copy of the new book 'The Kingdom was quoted as saying by news agencies on Sunday.

"The book and letter were given to His Majesty late on Šaturday.

Mr. Rabin's band-written letter, a copy of which was obtained by news agencies,

"I have learnt and undertaken the commitment to

please God and serve the

Jordanian people with a clear

your 60th birthday, I extend to you my heartfelt congratulations and my very best wishes for bealth, happiness and deepening of peace and friendship between us and our peoples.

"He said 'take this note to His Majesty and wish him a happy birthday for me'," re-called for Mr. Markarian.

Mr. Markarian said that the King had been "very moved" and authorised the contents of the letter to be made public.

"He got very emotional He was deeply moved and very touched by it," Mr. Markarian said, noting that he did not want to deliver it to the Monarch on his birthday "because I did not want to spoil it for him.

King Hussein, who said the assassination had robbed him of a "dear friend," attended Mr. Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem last Monday.

conscience and to dedicate all my life to my big Jordanian clan," be added.

(Continued on page 7)

'Shin Bet was tipped off of Rabin assassination plan 5 months ago'

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI POLICE were warned five months before the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that he was being targeted by a Jewish extremist, Israel radio revealed Sunday adding to a catalogue of security errors.

Police the internal security services Shio Bet and army intelligence had precise information from June 15 about Mr. Rabin's assassin Yigal Amir, five months before he gunned the premier down in Tel Aviv, the radio said.

Amid the new revelations, police announced a news blackout on the progress of its investigation into the assassination.

"We don't want to turn it into an O.J. investigation," police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said, referring to for-mer football star O.J. Simpson whose arrest and doublemurder trial in Los Angeles dominated the U.S. media

for more than a year.
"No one can work with the press crawling all over us. We don't want to conduct the investigation on the pages of the newspapers and on television screens.

He said that aside from "periodic news releases" in coordination with the security services, "we won't be going into any more details about the investigation."

Seven suspects, including confessed killer Amir are in custody. None has been charged. Police announced earlier

they had arrested a sergeant with an elite army corps and his father, bringing to eight the number of people being

State radio said the Shin Bet head and several top officials, whose identities are

ign if it is proved that the service failed in its job to gather intelligence on the far-

Right-wing extremist Sblo-mo Halevy told an army intelligence officer and police on June 15 that a radical was planning to kill Mr.Rabin, the radio reported.

Halevy, who knew Amir for two years, did not give the assassin's name so as not to "betray his friends," sayinghe had overheard two Israelis talking by accident in a public

But he supplied lots of details, describing the assassin as a 25-year-old student from the Bar Ilan university near Tel Aviv, of Yemeni origin with short hair. He

added the attack would be carried out by a pistol. The information described exactly what happened on Nov. 4 at a peace rally in Tel

In a report a police officer said the information was "serious and concrete" adding the "informer who supplied it was level-headed."

The information was passed onto the Shin Bet, which filed away the dossier but failed to identify Yigal Amir.

After the murder, investigators were "stunned" to find that the information given by Halevy matched exactly the assassination.

Halevy was among those arrested as part of the inquiry into the murder, but he was later released.

The report led to further speculation of Shin Bet's role in the affair with an Israeli lecturer charging they must

have colluded with Amir. "The attack could not have succeeded without the conspiracy of the security services," said Michael Harsa-

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat and 12 other PLO executives review course of peace after Rabin

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Orga-nisation (PLO) leadership met here on Sunday to work out its next moves in continuing the peace process after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin. "We examined the measures which the PLO and Palestinian (National) Authroty (PNA) must rake to ensure that the peace process continues on a good track despite Rabin's assassination," Palestinian Finance Minister Zohdi Nashashibi

said. Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres has assured PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that an Israeli troop redeployment would continue on schedule with a withdrawal from six West Bank towns by

the end of the year. A spokesman for the Egyptian presidency said meanwhile Mr. Peres would not come to Egypt for talks with

Mr. Arafat on Sunday. "Peres will not visit on Sunday." Hammad Nayil said, adding that he did not know if the Israeli leader would travel to Cairo in the coming days.

The Egyptian news agency MENA reported Saturday that Mr. Peres would hold talks with Mr. Arafat in Cairo on Sunday.

An official at the Israeli embassy in Cairo, Yaacov Setty, confirmed that "the report was incorrect," and that no plans had been decided for an upcoming meeting between the two leaders.

Thirteen members of the PLO Executive Committee turned up for the Cairo meeting, more than at any time since the PLO signed its first agreement with Israel in

For the past two years, Mr. Arafat has rarely been able to gather together more than nine members of the committee, the highest executive

body in the organisation, due to internal disputes. Bul committee member

Samir Ghoshe, the PNA labour minister, said the political situation in the self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank, and in Israel after the assassination of Mr. Rabin, made the presence of all active members necessary.

"The Palestinians are entering a new stage now, with the elections coming up. It is necessary to mobilise all political powers to help see this stage through and to decide relations with a post-Rabin Israel," Mr. Ghoshe told

He said the unprecedented elections in the self-rule areas, due to be held in 1996, dominated the committee's first session. Mr. Ghoshe said the executive members also discussed the controversial U.S. congressional vote to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

"This is not a time for

anyone who works for the country to abstain," he

Three of the original IS members resigned in protest at the Oslo agreement, which set the guidelines for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, Prominent poet Mahmoud Darwish had resigned before the agreement.

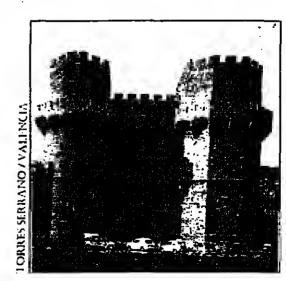
The biggest surprises were tbe presence of Suleiman Najab of the Palestinian People's Party and of independent Abdullah Hourani, who said in 1993 he would not attend until the Palestinian parliament decided on the self-rule agreements.

Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO's foreign minister, and Mahmoud Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, have also stayed away from the last two committee meetings but were present at the current gathering.



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Supreme court orders Israel to respect Jewish reform converts

TEL AVIV (AP) - The was still in place over marsupreme court ruled Sunday that the state most recognise conversion to Judaism performed by reform movement rabbis in Israel.

Reform leaders hailed the landmark six-to-one ruling, saying it would break the "monopoly jurisdiction" of the orthodox establishment in Israel which has had exclusive control over marriages, divorces, and conversions.

'I think it is a major step. not only in the area of constitutional law and the rule of law in Israel, but also in historic terms with regard to the state of Israel and the Jewish people," said Un Regev. head of the Israel Religious action centre, a reform institution.

However, he noted the ruling only applied to recognition by the state over who is a jew and did not compel the chief rabbinate, the top religious body in the country, to recognise such conversions.

Until now, reform conversions perform abroad were usually recognised by the state but those in Israet were

Mr. Regev said the reform. movement still had a long way to go before achieving equal status in the Jewish state. The chief rabbinate, he noted, still had the authority to refuse marriage and birth certificates requested by Jews converted under the reform

Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau dismissed Sunday's court ruling as unacceptable, saying the orthodox establishment would not accept as Jews those who were not converted according to strict Jewish law, or halacha.

"We will not be able to recognise a conversion that is a fiction." Rabbi Lau told army radio. "We will not be able to recognise as a member of the Jewish people one whose entrance is not been acceptable for generations under the Jewish law."

Rabbi Lau's response indicated that the ruling could further confuse the possible answers to the question who is a Jew?

Mr. Regev said the ruling. was limited only to the area of civil registration for the the "orthodox monopoly"

nage and divorce

The appellant, Hava Goldstein, will be registered as a Jew on her identity card, but the rabbinate would not be obligated to recognise her as a Jew under halacha, or religious law. That means she will not be able to have a recognised marriage in tsrael and her children could also have problems marrying.

"Without civil marriage. and reform and conservative rabbis being able to marry. that means that these thousands and thousands and thousands of Israeli citizens are denied the basic human right of marriage," Mr. Regev said.

"When you ask the question 'who is a Jew?' in Israel, there isn't one answer." he added. "A Jew for the purpose of marriage and divorce is one thing and a Jew for the purpose of the 'law of return' another.

The ruling also stated that a parliamentary legislation could overturn the supreme court decision recognising reform and conservative conversions.

The reform movement is the largest stream of Judaism in the United States, where it claims a membership of more than 1.5 million out of about 3 million Jews who have an affiliation. Most of the rest belong to orthodox and conservative synagogue

About half of U.S. Jews are non-affiliated. Reform Judaism was

founded in Germany in the mid-19th century as many Jews began shedding orthodxy. It sought to modernise religious practice and prayer rituals, sometimes by rejecting traditions such as wearing a skullcap or avoiding travel on the Jewish Sabbath.

In Israel, it is still widely viewed as a foreign import and has attracted only several thousand followers, many of them immigrants who belonged to the reform stream in Europe or the United States

While its growth has also been kept in check by orthodox rabbis, the reform movement last year scored_a success with the appointment of one of its leaders to a local population registry, and that religious council, under supreme court order.



ALGERIANS VOTE: An Algerian woman living in France casts her vote for the Nov 16 presidential elections in Algeria under a tent set up at the Algerian consulate in Marseilles (see story below and on page 12) (AFP photo)

Leah, Rabin symbolises Israel's grief

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel. shaken to the core by the assassination of its leader Yitzhak Rabin, has turned to his widow, Leab, to share her grief and draw courage from

her for the future. The murder of the Israeli prime minister by a Jewish fanatie in a plot to sabotage the peace process plunged the country into a whirlpool

of grief.
But of all the outpourings of sorrow, none bas been more visible than Leah Rabin. Since the shooting on Nov. 4, she bas hardly been out of the public eye.

The Rabin family tragedy was in turn a tragedy for the natioo.

On Sunday Leah Rabin was to return to the same Tel Aviv square where she saw her husband, 73, shot down before her eyes, to pay painful tribute to his memory and his work, before bundreds of thousands of Israelis.

Throughout the week condolences flooded in from world leaders and ordinary mourners.

Mrs. Rabin was there at the centre, leading the nation in its grief and providing a potent message of hope for the continuation of the peace process which cost her husband of 47 years his life.

Even in the depths of her sorrow as clinging to ber family sbe watched her husband's coffin lowered into his grave and covered with earth. she retained an air of dignity. After the burial in the Mount Herzl cemetery she

stood for more than an hour Rabin's spokeswoman said: to receive a tong line of con-dolences from 2,000 VIPs. including 70 heads of state. U.S. President Bill Clinton embraced her, while King Hussein called her "sister."

And in the strongest proof of her commitment 10 her husband's tegacy. Leah Rabin received Pafesunian leader Yasser Arafat and served him coffee in ber bome near Tel Aviv during his first visit to the heart of Israel as Palestinian leader

It was also Leah Rabin who voiced what many privately felt, when she publicly pointed the finger at right ring Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu for whipping up a climate of violence against her husband.

She admitted in an interview: "I think by the assassination of my husband the country has gained the opposite of innocence. It was a mind opening, it was a moral opening, it was a beginning of new era.

While acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres worked behind the scenes to overcome the political fallout of Mr. Rabin's murder, Leah Rabin seemed to become the symbol of a different Israel, forced to examine its conscience about the causes of the killing, but which had found a new place on the world stage.

There have even been murmurings in the past days that Mr. Rabin's 68-year-old widow should enter politics. But Aliza Goren, Mr.

I don't think she'll do that: "She did what she felt she wanted to do and was entitled to do. It was not done out of a sense of duty. She did it honourably."
Born in Germany, Leah

moved to Palestine in 1933. Since her marriage to Yitzhak Rabin in August 1948 she had rarely left ber husband's side. They have two children, and three grandchil-The couple first met when

they worked together in the Palmach Corps. part of the underground Hagana, the armed wing of the Zionist movement. "She's a very strong lady.

She knew what her husband was facing. She was the sort of wife who went where her husband went. She was exposed to many things," Ms. Goren said. Leah Rabin was also no stranger to controversy. In

1977 her husband was forced

lo resign over a scandal involving a secret foreign currency bank account in her name in Washington, In the following elections, the right wing Likud Party was swept to power for the first time since the creation of

Israel in 1948. On Sunday Leah Rabin was to first attend a commemoration ceremony with President Ezer Weizman at her husband's tomb, at the end of a week-long period of mourning, before addressing the crowds at the Tel Aviv

memorial.

Filipino says Iraq planning sabotage

KUWAIT (AP) - A Filipino who confessed to being recruited by Iraq to hijack a Kuwaiti airliner has told interrogators Baghdad planned sabotage operations against the emirate, Al Anba daily reported Sunday.

in Kuwait

The pro-government, Arabic-language newspaper said the man Kuwait airport authorities arrested Thursday was carrying a machine-gun, small arms, ammunition, four passports and catalogues of

It said the Filipino had arrived from Cyprus to catch a Kuwait Airways flight to Bangkok and Manila. He was iostructed to seize the aircraft and demand ransom and the release of prisoners jailed in Kuwait for collaborating with Iraqi forces.

Airport security officers foiled the attempt.

Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait in August 1990, but a U.S.-led coalition force liberated the emirate seven months later.

Al Anba first reported the arrest of the Filipino Saturday, but there has been no word from the government on the incident. If confirmed, his revelations would lend weight to repeated warnings by the government that Iraq remains a major threat to the security of the emirate.

A Philippines embassy offieial was quoted by the Eoglish-language daily Arab Times Sunday as saying be was aware of the fact that a Philippines national was being interrogated by authorities.

The Filipino, according to Al Anba, told investigators be had learned from Iraqi agents in Cyprus, where he was recruited, that they plan-ned to infiltrate Kuwait from the sea to carry out sabotage operations.

He said the agents wanted to uodermine Kuwait's security by carrying out several small operations to be followed by a big effective one, Al Anba said without giving details

Iraqi intelligence agents working on plans to sabotage Kuwait were called "partners in jihad the man told interrogators, according to Al Anba.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel to issue stamp in memory of Rabin

TEL AVIV (AP) - Israel will issue a postage stamp honouring slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin one month after his assassination, the postal authority said Sunday, The stamp, bearing the official photograph of Mr. Rabin, will be worth five shekels (\$1.60). Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni decided not to wait a full year from the time of death as is customary, but to issue the stamp 30 days after the assassination, the postal service said in a

S. Arabia hails Muslim-Croat accord

RIYADH (AFP) - Saudi Arabia on Sunday hailed as an important step towards peace the accord signed between Bosnia's Croats and Mushms to strengthen their federation. "This agreement is the best peace initiative to end the ethnic conflict in this republic," the official Saudi newspaper Al Riyadh said. "The biggest and most important step will be to force the Bosnian Serbs to joio." it added. Saudi Arabia fully supports Bosnia's Muslims and has granted them bundreds of millions of dollars since the conflict in the former Yugoslavian republic erupted in 1992. The agreement, signed Friday at a midwestern U.S. military base, strengthens the Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia, which Washington helped engineer in March last year to bring together the two feuding factions that were nominally allied against the Serbs.

Albania, Turkey end war games

TIRANA (AFP) - Albania and Turkey wound up four days of joint military manoeuvres off the Adriatic coast Saturday, the Albanian defence ministry announced. The Marex 1995 manoeuvres, which included rescue operations at sea, were held within the framework of NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, the second involviog Albania and NATO member Turkey this year. Two hundred Albanians and Turks took part in the exercise.

U.N. expects Greek-Cypriot soldier's release

NICOSIA (AFP) - U.N. peacekeepers have met with a 19-year-old Greek-Cypriot soldier being held by Turkish forces on the northern side of the divided island and said Saturday they expect his release in a few days. The United Nations is "pursuing efforts to have him returned quickly." said U.N. spokesman Charles Gaulken. "We are pretty sure that we will have him back in a few days." The soldier, identified as Georgios Karotsakis, entered the Turkish-Cypriot zone near the capital Nicosia on Nov. 3 for an unknown reason. He was unarmed. The Turkish-Cypriot news agency TAK said Thursday that the soldier would be tried for entering Turkish-held territory without permission. The incident has caused hundreds of students to protest for the soldier's release along the buffer zone separating the Greek-Cypniot and Turkish-Cypriot zones sides over the past week. About IO U.N. peacekeepers were slightly injured as the Greek-Cypriot students tried to force their way into the zone.

Kuwait destroys seized whisky and beer

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait on Sunday destroyed 199,647 confiscated cans of beer and bottles of whisky in line with a ban on alcohol in the country. The action by a branch of the state prosecution service was the first such operation this year, the Kuwait News Agency said. Kuwaiti authorities destroyed 56,000 bottles of alcohol in April 1994. Residents in the emirate say most confiscated alcohol is found by customs officers searching for contraband hidden in commercial cargo and travellers' luggage.

France pledges protection of Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) - France will defend Gulf Arab states against an external attack as it did when it participated in the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invasion forces, Defence Minister Charles Millon said on Sunday. Mr. Millon, interviewed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force Magazine, an Arabic language publicasaid France wanted durable stability in the region home to more than 60 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves. "France is contributing senously and effectively to the consolidation of security and stability in the Gulf. he said. "It is also committed to the protection of Gulf states against any permanent danger even through military means as was the case when it participated in the coalition forces to liberate Kuwait five years ago." France was a key member of the U.S.-led international alliance that ejected Iraqi troops from Kuwait in early 1991 after seven months

Amnesty to boost presence in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Amnesty International seeks to expand its 100-strong membership in Kuwait, the only Gulf country where it has a branch, a visiting delegate from the London-based organisation said Sunday, "We want to promote the organisation and attract more members and supporters." Abdul Motal Girchab, Amnesty's membership development coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, told AFP. He said the two-member delegation was expected in the next few days in Kuwait to visit prisons and to hold talks with the Kuwaiu national committee for missing persons and prisoners of war captured during the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation. Kuwaii has been seeking from traq information on 605 persons captured during the occupation, but Baghdad denies holding any prisoners. Kuwait has the only elected parliament in the Gulf, with a parliamentary commission on human rights.

Election a credibility test for Algeria's military-backed regime

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerians go to the polls on Thursday in their country's first multi-party presidential election, knowing their votes are eligible to vote, comcould make or break their military-backed government's credibility.

With incumbent President Liamine Zeroual widely regarded as the frontrunner, the main uncertainties in the first round of voting will be the turnout, the behaviour of Islamic fundamentalist voters, and the threat of vio-

All four candidates have campaigned on a platform of ending the country's war, which has cost more than 30,000 lives since the author-ities cancelled Algeria's first free legislative elections in January 1992.

The fundamentalists, who were poised to win those elections, have called for a massive boycolt of the presidential poll and armed mili-

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tants have threatened to kill those who dare to venture out to cast their ballots.

Almost 16 million electors pared to the I2.5 million registered for the first round of voting in the legislative elections in December 1991. when the turnout was 59 per

Mr. Zeroual, who has repeatedly declared that the militants have lost the public's support, has acknowledged that the credibility of the etection this time will be measured on the turnout.

The president, who was appointed for an interim period of three years by the High Council of State on Jan. 30 last year, has promised to hold elections for the legislature and regional and local assemblies if he wins.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has said he would be satisfied with a turnout of around 60 per cent of the first

round on Thursday In the annulled 1991 elec-

tions, the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). the National Liberation Front (FLN), the former single ruling party, and the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) won 78.51 per cent of the

FLN (15).

The most likely candidate to benefit from FIS sym-pathisers is Sheikh Mashoud

Group (GIA).

lives virtually everyday. The most spectacular militant operations so far have

been two car bomb attacks that left 17 dead and almost 200 injured at the start of the campaign and the killing of a French nun and wounding of another in Algiers on Friday. Tight security around the candidates and their election

meetings has so far ensured that there have no major incidents at political rallies but the public are sceptical about the chances of a peaceful campaign.
The independent newspap-

er L'Opinion, summing up the country's visible concern. spoke of a "certain calm on the security front" but also warned that observers feared a sharp rise in violence on election day.

soldiers reinforced barricades on main arteries teading into Algiers on Sunday, as campaigning moved into a final 24 hours for the elections. Evewitnesses said troops

kilometres from the Muslim fundamentalist bastion of Bah Al Oued in the capital. More soldiers. Kalashnikov assault rifles ready. manned a roadblock nearhy to check identities of hus passengers and motorists and to search vehicles.

took over a school in Ham-

mamel area, some two

"My brother, an army officer, has had all leave cancelled because of the mobilisation for the presidential election," said one young resident of a district not far from Algiers airport. Foot patrols of at least 10

armed soldiers were seen hy residents on Saturday in Rais Hamidou, near 'Ain Tava forest on the outskirts of Algiers, and in other dis-Ificts.

PROGRAMME TWO

14:30 Playabout
14:45 Hcy Day
15:00 Feature: "Copacahana"
17:00
Children's programme - Fractale
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Nimbus
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 I Love Lucy
20:00 You Bet Your Life
20:25
Doc On the Banks of Jordan
21:00
Al Hussein A World Tribute
23:00 News in English
23:25
The wall (Roger Waters in Con-
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St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh. Tcl. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tcl.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62459().

Church of the Annunciation Tcl. 637440. De la Saile Church Tel. n61757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Amuscianou Tel. 623541. in Church Tel. 652826 ian Catholic Church Tel. Armenia 771331. an Orthodox Church Tel.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526 elical Lutheran Church Tel. R24328. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tcl. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 854932
Church of Nazarene Tcl.875691.
The Evangelical Local Church in

WEATHER

Amman Tel. SI 1295

Bulletia supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively cool wit temperatures below average an winds easterly moderate. I Agaba, dusty weather condition will prevail with winds norther moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	3/17
Aqaha	12 / 23
Deserts	17.18
Jordan Valley	9/23

But all of the candidates in

this election have insisted that, after almost four years of civil war, economic col-lapse and political stalemate. the electorate's past voting record means nothing this

Political analysts, however. have acknowledged that the FIS, banned in March 1992. still has a large reservoir of support. In 1991 it won 188 parliamentary seats, far ahead of the FFS (25) and the

What remains uncertain is whether FIS supporters will abstain this time or shift their votes to other candidates.

EMERGENCIES

Nahnah, who advocates a modern and tolerant Islam and puts forward policies and slogans similar to those of the banned party. Sheikh Nahnah has con-

siderable support among the middle class but has been criticised by the FIS and threatened with death by the militant Armed Islamic The GlA's threats to kill

voters and a call by another armed organisation, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS). armed wing of the FIS, for people not to Icave their homes on polling day, have raised fears of a bloodbath. Until now, however, there has been no noticeable escalation in the violence. which nevertheless claims

Reuter adds: Heavily armed

State-controlled television gave wide coverage to the start of voting by Algerians abroad, such as in France and

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:	Food Control Centre 637111
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aquba 23 Humidiy	Civil Defence Department 66[1]
readings: Amman 35 per cent.	Civil Delence Immediate
Agaha 30 per cent	Rescue 630341
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Civil Delence Emergency 149
	Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
HSFFUL	From Days of August 192, 1921111, 1937777
	Fire Brigade 617101
TELEPHONE	Blood Bank
MIMBERS	Highway Police K41472
tantimeter.	Traffic Police Swigter
	third account polantiment more
NIGHT DUTY	Hotel Complaints 60580
	Proce Complaints 661176
AMMAN:	Water and Sewerage
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286	Complaints 817467
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 649028	Amman Municipality
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197	Complaints
Dr. Issam Al Asmar 890514	Telephone Information
Figas pharmacy 651412	(directory assistance) 121
Ferdows pharmacy 778336	
Al Asema pharmacy 637055	Overseas Calls 10102301
	Central Amman Telephone
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672	Repairs 623[0]
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	Abdult Telephone Repairs (6) [11]
Yacoub pharmacy	Jordan Television 773[11
Shmeisani pharmacy 637661	Radio Jordan 774111
Natrough pharmacy	Water Authority APDION
Naith pharmacy 847632	Jordan Electricity Authority
	315615
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Ounts 281484	Electric Power
	Company 636381
Alquds pharmacy II	RJ Phylir Information US-53200
	Queen Alia Intl. Aupon 18-53200
ZARQA:	4
Dr. Fahd Abdul Salam 984549	MOCDITALS
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417	HOSPITALS
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	AMMIAN.

HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidt Maternity, J. Amn Akilch Maternity. J. Amn. 642441/2 Juhal Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636/40 Palestine, Shinersan 607071 Al-Musher Hospital

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66 N:72276 777101/3 Halun, Al-Muhajreen .. 777 Half, Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/20 Amal Hospital . . 674155

ZAROA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 189/483323 Zarqa National Hospital 109390360 09:55 Duhai, Ahu Dhahi (RJ) Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (00)990900 Princess Rasma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Cathobe Hospital (02)275275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Process Kaya Hospital (UT)314111

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (18)53204-5, where it should always be veri-

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) Agaha (RJ)

16:45 New York, Amsterdam [RJ] 18:40 Casablanca. Tunis (RJ) Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi (add) [RJ]

..... Beirut (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

..... Rome [AZ] Khartoum [SD] Cairo (MS] Muscat, Abu Dhabi [GF) Kicv (23:05

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (R **Flights** (Terminal 1) 06:15

	CHUIL COCHUI
06:30	Anuha /
11:00	Amsterdam, Chicago
12:05	London I
12: 15	· ····· Cairo
12-24	Frankfurt (
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20.15	Bahrein, Doha (
20,43	Damascus I
21:15	Duhai, Muscal (
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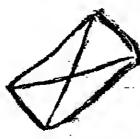
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6U1	TRAIN
AF	Dep. Amman 8:00 every Mond
DAI	Art. Damascus
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	Upper lower price in fils per k
RUI	Apple 700/ 5
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HIJAZ RAILWAY



TC to fo

(Petra)—The whip it develop programmes in its i faining centres his country. Un Sunday chaired 3 of the corporagrouping

pard to review this which suggests the of Il national members from the men itself and the n other concerned and private sector be meeting, anended finiser of Labour Minister Mr. Nashad accide

n Rana Husseini of the Jordan Times well - Five people one child were and even more were a Samurday in five ar noad accidents in below according to , and Civil Defence (CDO) reports. hik Security Depart-3 (PSD) reports said a

and Huwara child ar playing in the s us nun over and be a pick-up truck Abdul Lanif Visicen usuad died on her e Princes Basma rain bold, according -Би перопь n libid a 50-yearis ded and three peoage based in fair con-

na following a road men what moised a ande that rolled over in UNICE

children healthie

li Ghalia Ahul do the Jordan Times FILL Some of the fibest known muse alancis have joined ™ wake this year's and good wishes a occasion for the ad children of the

through the United

Children's Func

F) greeting card at sold to the public thou the world with value used for chil development pro of the greeting are designed by th tirits or donated by museums, an included orients that celebrat and Islamic culture Azek Bitar, senic

Indian assistant for large at UNICEF an ag card coordinator. aid that all the done MCEF receives in the revenue es of the cards in the will go to fundir and mother pro un Jordan, and incal programme aportant but receive inding from i headquarters

and An dustim artists who featured cards includ Jeibo from Palestir Mino of the Spa Kachian from Syria Cards caler 10 a va lasies and are pr on recycled paper "gency's conce

mecting the enviro

a postage Manp TC to form national training sty said Sunday on of Mr. Rahin one will year from the organications Mints on the organications Mints or ogramme preparatory teams ull year from the

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(Petra)—The locational Training Corpoat accord prior (VTC) is forming to help it develop day hailed as an ocational training centres signed between gound the country.

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Signed between gound the country.

Initiative to the country of the country of

initiative to end dasrallah Sunday chaired a ggest and most in Serbs to join. ia's Muslims and dollars since the bat federation in at federation in March last were public and private sector ctions that were public and private sector

At the meeting, attended Minister of Labour Nader Abul Shaer, Mr. Nase Adriatic coas announced. The

rallah submitted a working paper which suggested the creation of the teams, and developing programmes at the vocational centres so that they can cater to the needs of the local labour markets and absorb modern

technologies.
Mr. Nasrallah said the will be entrusted developing programmes for training youths in electronics, auto mechanics, carpentry, air conditioning, refrigeration, plumbing, hotel and restaurant management, haking, manufacturing, and traditional handicrafts, hair dressing,

industrial maintenance.

The paper also called for the creation of a higher steering committee of 12 members beaded by the VTC director to follow up on the the activities of the proposed national teams.

According to the paper, the II teams will be responsible for recommending to the higher committee new trends and new programmes in vocational

The Minister of Labour and the board members endorsed the working paper and said work will soon start on implementing its

construction and general escue operation Road accidents kill 4 adults, 1 child

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Five people have mel with including one child were held by Turket killed and seven more were island and sad injured Saturday in five ays. The United surned quickly "We are prefit the kingdom, according to the kingdom. /s." The soldier police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

Public Security Depart-Turkish-Cypno ment (PSD) reports said a oldier would be one-year-old Huwara child without perms who was playing in the of students w street was run over and he huffer zone killed by a pick-up truck 1-Cypriot zone, driven by Abdul Latif . peacekeepen Musa, 45.

students ined to baby, Mohammad, died on her way to Princess Basma and beer Hospital in Irbid, according to police reports.

Also in Irbid, a 50-yearky in line with; old man died and three peoa branch of the ple were listed in fair conoperation the dition following a road vaiti authorne accident which involved a 1994. Resident vehicle that rolled over in nol is found b Irbid.

Truffic officials attributed the accident to reckless driving and wrongful overtaking by the driver of the vehicle. The driver was not identified. The deceased was identified as Kadri Judeh. Three other men

CDD reports said Sunday that a 45-year-old man was killed Saturday when the trailer he was driving on Muqabelin Road near Juweideb rolled over.

were injured in the same

Mohammad Musa was killed instantly, the reports said, adding that the trailer, which belonged to the Amman Municipalicompletely was wrecked.

In Zarqa, a 28-year-old Bangladeshi man was killed when he was run over by a bus on the Zarga Highway, PSD reports said. who was killed instantly, was hit by a bus driven by Mohammad Hmoud, 33, a Syrian national.

Also on Saturday, in another road collision which involved a vehicle and a bus, a 44-year-old man of Turkish origin was killed on the Yadoudeh Street in Amman, PSD reports said.

The report said that the driver of the vehicle, Found Ahmad was killed when his car met head-on with an oncoming bus. The driver of the bus, Abdul Hamid Amer, 53 was listed in serious condition, the report added.

Saturday's five road accident related deaths brought the number of people killed on the Kingdom's roads to nine during the past four days. Four people alone According to the report, were killed last Tuesday in Mohammad Aref. Al Haq. road collisions because of were killed last Tuesday in slippery roads.

Queen inaugurates mosaic school, archaeological park in Madaba

in the heart of the ancient

city of Madaba was started

in 1991 by the Ministry of

Tourism of Jordan, the

ACOR, the United States

Agency for International

Development (USAID),

and the Society for the preservation of Madaba's

The main component of

the project was the con-

struction of a shelter over

two of the most important

sites: the Church of the Vir-

gin and the Hippolytus

Hall, with their beaunful

mosaics showing pastoral

and hunting scenes bor-

dered by acanthus scrolls

and personifications of the

According to Ammar Khammash, the architect

who designed the shelter

and carried out many works

and restorations in Madaba,

employed in the construc-

tion of the shelter, but the

W3S

machinery

Heritage and Suburbs.

By Francesca Ciriaci Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday formaily inaugurated the Madaba Mosaic School (MMS) and the Madaba Archaeological Park, two institutions that not only will play a major role in the cunservation and preservation of Jordan's rich cultural and historical heritage, but also will provide new important job opportunities, promoting cultural tourism and introducing a new craft in the Kingdom.

The opening ceremony, held in the heart of Madaba's old city, was attended by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Khatib, Italian, U.S. and Canadian Ambassadors to Jordan Romualdo Bettini, Wesley Egan, and Michel de Salaberry, along with officials from governmental institutions and the Madaba municipality and

governorate. The MMS and the Madaha Archaeological Park represent the successful result of the combined efforts exerted by the Department of Antiquities as the Ministry of Tourism of Jordan, the Italian government, the US government and the Canadian government.

In fact, the MMS is a public school established in 1992 within the framework of a bilateral agreement for cooperation between Italy and Jordan and was financed with \$ 1.05 million from the Jordanian side and \$ 2 million from the Italian side.

The idea of creating a school to train young Jordanians to conserve and restore the large number of beautiful and precious mosaics excavated or under excavation in the Madaba area was started by Father

AMMAN (J.T.) — The

Michele Piccirillo, director of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute.

Claudio Cimino, project manager at MMS, told the Jordan Times the school offers a three year academic programme focusing on ancient mosaic restoration and modern mosaic producnon. From studies carried out considering the number of mosaics in Jordan, Mr. Cimino said at least 100 restaurateurs are required at the moment in the Jordanian market, while Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian universities have already contacted the MMS to present their candidates.

Applicants must have achieved above a 75% average in 10th grade, pass an interview and an entry test. Only 15 students per year are enrolled in the free programme. Besides chemistry, physics, maths, Arabic and English, students attend classes in Italian, history of art, professional drawing, international law for the protection of cultural heritage and follow workshops on mosaic, mosaic restoration and petrography.

At the end of the second year, students sit for their Tawjihi exams.

The Madaba Archaeological Park was financed with \$ 800,000 by the US government through the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR), a US NGO based in Amman. Located besides the MMS. not far from the Church of St. George, that bosts the renowned mosaic map of the Holy Land, the Park includes a well preserved stretch of the late roman road, three Byzantine churches with beautiful mosaic floors, and areades where mosaics of the Umayyad period are dis-

played. The project to cre-

ate an archaeological park sive". 600 tonnes of stones were gathered from the dump yards around the site and up to 70% of the final cost went in salaries for the 35 local workers employed every day for 1000 working days in the construction of the shelter.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday tours sites of the Madaba Archaeological Park

which she formally inaugurated along with the Madaba Mosaic School (photo by

The Queen toured all the archaeological sites of the Madaba Archaeological Park and visited the MMS, where she also talked to the snidents who were attending a class. In a speech delivered dur-

ing the ceremony, Mr. Egan said "the preservation, restoration and thoughtful presentation of Jordan's treasures is an important objective of the government of Jordan. . . and helps to invigorate the economy of the modern town of Madaba. . . hy contributing to local business revenues and by expanding the potential of the tourism sec-

Mr. Bettini said "the Jor-

danian authorities and foreign archaeological missions bave made impressive efforts to protect the archaeological sites allowing the tourism industry to become a leading factor for the development of the country's economy". He added that "the Madaha area will significantly contribute to the development of the country's economy in

the future". Queen Noor praised the Ministry of Tourism and expressed her admiration at the co-operation between the public and private sector's initiative in revitalising the heart of the ancient and bistoric city of Madaba,

The Queen, accompanied by Nawzat Sbaker, was received by HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Princess Majda Ra'ed, Pierre Bikai, director of ACOR, and Prof. Piccirillo, as well as officials from the Madaba Municipality and

'UNICEF greeting cards, Iraqi invasoo games and gifts help in the region rid's proven of and effectively children realise fuller, tection of Gulf hrough militan: healthier lives

By Ghalia Alul Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN- Some of the world's best known muselegate from the forces to make this year's season of good with the want lo happy occasion for the nnesty's mem deprive deprived children of the

nember delega How: through the United Kuwait to visit Nations Children's Fund wain national (UNICEF) greeting cards which are sold to the public ry 1991 lray throughout the world with the revenue used for children's development programmes

Some of the greeting cards were designed by the best artists or donated by famous museums, and some included oriental paintings that celebrate Arab and Islamic culture, said Nazek Bitar, senior information assistant for the Jordan Country Programme at UNICEF and greeting card coordinator. She said that all the donations UNICEF receives in addition to the revenue of the sales of the cards in the Kingdom will go to funding

T PRICES the child and mother programme in Jordan, and to Other local programmes which UNICEF believes are important but receive no funding from the UNICEF headquarters in New York, loternational and Arab

and Muslim artists whose works are featured on UNICEF's cards include, Ali Qleibo from Palestine, Joschim Miro of the Spanish school, Lamia Abdul Sabib from Iraq and Mamdouh Kachlan from Syria. The cards cater to a variand are prodiced on recycled paper to tress the agency's concern

or protecting the environ-



A UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) greeting card designed by Palestinian artist Ali Oleibo.

"We have an exclusive oriental collection, and for the first time a Palestinian artist is taking part in designing a UNICEF card,"

Ms. Bitar added. She said that all UNICEF greeting cards, gift items, agendas and other items are available at major stores and book shops in the Kingdom. They are also available at UNICEF head-

quarters in Amman. Ms. Bitar added that UNICEF receives donations from international companies that produce expensive products with the revenues used in funding child and mother pro-

But she stressed that local support is essential in enabling UNICEF to carry out its programmes in the Kingdom. "The cooperation from

our society is a key to a continuous development," said Ms. Bitar. UNICEF was established

in 1946 by the United Nations General Assembly to meet the emergency needs of children in the aftermath of world war 11.

In 1953 it became a permanent part of the United Nations system with its mandate extended indefinitely and expanded to cover children all over the co, Turkey and Jordan, be said.

International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) Monday will open two training seminars for participants from Arab and regional countries to discuss ways to transfer modern farming technology to the Arab states and matters related to biodiversity in

ICARDA to open 2 seminars

on farming technology transfer

farming. Nasri Haddad, ICARDA regional programme coordinator, told the Jordan Times that the first seminar aims at providing the participants with expertise in communicating with farmers to sound out their views about modern technology they wish to acquire and to learn more about their pre-

sent methods. Participants from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Libya will listen to lecfrom ICARDA experts working in Moroc-

The second seminar will be entitled: collection, conservation and evaluation of plant generics resource, and will focus on preserving and evaluating plant genetics resource, biodiversity conservation and genes banks, said Dr. Haddad.

He said the participants will also concentrate on the preservation of local strains of plants and ICARDA's cooperation with the participating countries in this

Taking part in the second seminar are participants from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and Iran, said Dr. Haddad. who added that the seminars, which are organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, will be held at the Jerusalem Hotel and last until Nov. 23.

Actors take show to Israel despite unions' opposition Mr. Yanis said his per-Amman (AP) --- Two Jor-

danian comedians Sunday left Amman to perform in Israel, ignoring protests by unious opposed to normalising ties with the Jewisb state.

Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis, Jordan's most famous stand-upcomedians, will be the first Jordanian actors to perform in Israel since it signed a peace treaty with Jordan last year.

A member of a pop band which performed in Israel last year was suspended by the artists' union, one of 12 professional unions in Jordan which threaten to expel any of their 80,000 members if they made contacts with Israel.

The unions are dominated hy Islamists who advocate the destruction of the Jewish state and leftists who

regard the Mideast peace process as biased in favour of Israel. The government has

repeatedly asked the unions to stay away from politics, but several writers, journalists, artists, doctors and engineers have so far been expelled or referred to disciplinary panels for contacts with Israel. Mr. Yanis said he and Mr.

Sawalha resigned from their union a few months ago "because it threatened to expel us." Mr. Yanis, also a writer, said the writers' federation has also tried to force him to resign hut he refused.

"They have no right to control us," Mr. Yanis said. "l am not afraid to go to Israel since our government encourages such contacts, and we are in a state of peace with the Israelis."

formance in Israel will help deliver a Jordanian message to the Israelis. "We want them to know that we support peace and we want to exchange views and knowledge."

He said he and Mr. Sawalha will perform in Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas their popular "Peace, Oh Peace," a satirical one-act play on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"We are not against peace with Israel, but we are against normalisation of ties until Israel ends its occupation of all Arablands," said Ibrahim Absi, chairman of the Federation

of Jordanian Writers. Mohammed Barmawi, chairman of the Jordanian Artists Association, declined comment.

Former U.S. envoy sees full Jordan-Gulf reconciliation within 5 years

By Lola Keilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A total healing of the rift between the Gulf states and Jordan caused by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will not be complete for several years, says a former U.S. diplomat with extensive experience in the Mid-

dle East region. William Rugh, who spent about 30 years in the region as an American diplomat, believes that the Gulf leaders were deeply hurt by Jordan's refusal to endorse a military option to evict Iraq from Kuwait and join the American-led coalition that eventually liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in

February 1991. Mr. Rugh, is currently the president of the American-Mideast Educational and Service (AMIDEAST) which aims

at promoting understanding and cooperation between Americans and the people of the Middle East through education, information and development programmes. He was in Jordan to

attend a conference on obstacles to obtaining U.S. student visas. Speaking at a lecture he delivered at the World Affairs Council in Amman

on Saturday evening, Mr. Rugh said the United States, which has excellent relations with the Gulf states and Jordan, has a policy of non-interference in relations between "brotherly states." As such, he implied, the

U.S. cannot be expected to play a strong role in efforts to bring about reconciliation between the Gulf states and the countries that they perceived as having supported the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

"It is difficult to predict a date, but complete reconciliation could take about five years," Mr.Rugh told the Jordan Times after the lec-

The United States "can be an honest broker, but all parties should accept that our role, which is not more than facilitating communications," he added.

On the Gulf states' approach towards the Middle East peace process and the related prospects for regional cooperation, Mr. Rugh said the Gulf countries were not interested in financing the Middle East Development Bank since they think it is a means for the poor countries of the region to "get their hands

on Gulf funds." Similarly, they ; also believe that the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held in Amman last month was "Israel's Trojan horse" to get into the Gulf area, he said.

Security rather than Arab solidarity is the main concern of the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC); Saudi Arabia, Bahrain. Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to Mr. Rugh.

Even the GCC countries are split into three subgroups, he said. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain in a hardline group, the United Arab Emirates on its own in a neutral stand, and Oman and Qatar in a "conciliatory group," he added

By and large, the GCC's stand towards the peace process depends largely on progress in the peace negouations between Syria and Israel, particularly because of Syria's good relations with Iran which is seen by the GCC countries as a major source of threat to their own interests, said Mr.

"The countries in the first and second groups will not antagonise Syria, which has excellent relations with Iran, their main security concern," Mr. Rugh said.

These two groups are also the most important players in the region since they produce almost 470 million barrels of oil a day, he said.

They are also the most rigid in terms of relations with Jordan and the Palestine Liberations Organisation (PLO) and adopt bardline policies towards Iraq and Iran, said Mr.Rugh.

Oman and Qatar have better relations with the PLO. Jordan, and Israel. They have participated in the multilateral talks, and have adopted moderate policies towards Israel, he added.

Nigeria remains defiant over hangings of rights campaigners

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria against the military govern- was produced in Ogoniland. remained defiant Sunday in the face of worldwide condemnation of the hangings of minnrity rights campaigners Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight kinsmen.

"The law has taken its full Lieutenant-Colonel Dauda Komo, governor of the southeastern Rivers State, told the Thursday newspaper in an published

"Four prominent Ogoni people were killed, it was murder," Col. Komo said.

Saro-Wiwa, a prominent playwright, and eight members of his Movement for the Survival of Ogoni Peoples (MOSOP) were senienced to death by a tribunal over the murders in May 1994 of four pro-government Ogoni chiefs.

They were hanged Friday in defiance of international appeals for clemency on the grounds that the trial was flawed.

The world has firmly condemned the hangings and powerful Western nations have recalled their top diplomats from Nigeria.

The Commonwealth, the 52-strnng club which groups Britain and its former colonies, promptly suspended Nigeria's membersbip and has set a two-year deadline for military ruler General Sani Ahacha to restore democracy to the

Even some African states, wary of criticising internal affairs of their neighbours, have roundly condemned the bangings.

But angry Nigerian opposition groups have urged the

"The Nigerian people expect nothing less than the total isolation of the General Sani Abacha regime, seizure of all assets abroad of members of the Nigerian junta, their fami-lies and friends, Ayo Obe, national leader of the Civil Liberties Organisation, the leading human rights group in the west African state, said Saturday.

So far, the Nigerian government has shown no sign of a quick return to democ-

racy. Gen. Abacha's spokesman David Attah told BBC World Service Radio that Nigeria was sad and displeased as being suspended from the Commonwealth.

"We see it as most unfortunate, unfair and baseless, and it doesn't seem to approximate events and developments in Nigeria,"

Nigerian opposition groups have long demanded imposition of economic sanctions, including an embargo oo Nigeria's crude oil, to force the military government to respect human rights and restore democracy which was aborted when the army annulled a presidential elec-

tion in 1993. But despite the international outrage at the execution it seemed unlikely the West would ban the flow of Nigerian oil, the country's

economic lifeblood. Oil is at the root of the Ogoni crisis.

Saro-Wiwa had long been campaigning for a fair share of income derived by the international community to government from export of of democracy and hutake more punitive steps crude oil, some of which rights in member states.

His MOSOP group has also been calling for selfdetermination for the 500,000 Ogoni people in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation of nearly 90 million people. Ordinary Nigerians have

expressed disgust at the executions but so far there have not been mass protests. Sunday newspapers said a crowd of about 200 gathered at a rally called by radical Lagos lawyer Gani Fawebinmi Saturday to denounce the hangings hut were dispersed hy riot

Earlier Sunday, the Commonwealth set Nigeria a two-year deadline to reform or face expulsion as u gave new teeth to its principles on democracy and human rights.

We would hope that in the period extending out two years we would see concrete evidence...concrete moves of Nigeria to move back to an acceptable approach to government." Zealand Prime

Minister Jim Bolger said. Leaders set the two-year deadline - until their next summit in Britain in 1997 - a day after taking the unprecedented step of suspending Nigeria for the

British Prime Minister John Major slapped a ban on military sales to Nigeria, which are already tightly restricted, and said he would urge others to follow

The summit also decided to create a special action group of eight foreign ministers to deal with violations of democracy and human.

"It will be the group's task to assess the nature of the infringement and recommend measures for collecrive Commonwealth action aimed at the speedy restoration of democracy and con-stitutional rule," leaders said in a statement.

Their moves were aimed at restoring credibility to the Commonwealth, two days after Nigeria ignored its pleas for clemency and executed Saro-Wiwa and eight associates.

"I think the suggestion of the Commonwealth's failure is inaccurate and wrong," said Mr. Bolger, hailing a new era for the organisatioo as a "vihrant gathering of nations".

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said the 52strong club of Britain and its former colonies had "passed the test". The Commonwealth had

act, and the Commonwealth has acted," he told reporters.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Nigeria should show evidence of moves towards demneracy within six months to a year. But he acknowledged the Commonwealth's clout was lim-

The Commonwealth is without any power of enforcement. There is really very little we can do. So we have to send a message to them that this is not something we can accept," he

of meetings and talks with China's leaders Monday. He is to meet President sanctions against Nigeria, a Jiang Zemin, Premier Li major oil producer, as this Peng and Vice Premier Zhu was a matter for individual Rongji, in charge of China's

economic reforms.

The five-day trip is Mr. Kohl's fourth to China since he took office 13 years ago and is the latest in a flurry of visits between China and army to be visited during an its biggest trade partner in official visit".

BELJING (R) — German

Chancellor Helmut Knhl

arrived in Beijing Sunday at the start of a visit to China

that has sparked controver-

sy over his decision to place

military conperation on the

Mr. Kohl was welcomed

at Beijing's capital airport

hy Minister of Machine-

Building He Guangyuan

resting before launching his

high-profile economic and

Minister Jiang Enzhu.

ing the good name of the Chinese Armed Forces that hrutally crushed prodemocracy protests in Tianunnien Beijing's

South African President Nelson Mandela (left) and Australian Prime Minister Paul

Keating lay wreaths during the remembrance service at the Commonwealth heads of

Kohl arrives for China visit

He is also placing military

cooperation on the agenda

with a visit to the showcase

196th Infantry Division in

The move has sparked

accusations that he is restor-

government meeting retreat near Qweenstown, New Zealand (AFP photo)

Tianjin.

Deputy Foreign Square in 1989. Avoiding the limousine Bnnn government sources say Germany does not wish motorcade that China traditionally accords to visiting to normalise military relations with China — still subject to an EU arms leaders, Mr. Kohl climbed into a hus provided hy Beijing's Capital Tax Co for emhargo - and that the the drive into the city.

He is to spend the day 196th Division took no part

in the Tiananmen massacre. They say Bonn simply wants to match the United States in its level of military cooperation with Beijing hy exploring ways to work together on military medi-

cine or training methods. Speaking last week. Guenter Verheugen, parliamentary foreign affairs spokesman for the opposition Social Democrats, said it was "absolutely not normal for the host country's not, this raises the status of the army. It may even be seen in China itself as a kind of rehabilitation," he told, private radio station Kohl is taking Mr.

"Whether Kohl likes it or

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt, Research Minister Juergen Ruettgers and Post and Telecommunications Minister Wolfgang Boetsch on the 10-day Asian tour to China. Vietnam and Singapore. along with 45 top husiness "I expect a new upswing

in already excellent economic lies. I expect progress in the many big deals being negotiated, currently about 30." Mr. Rexrodi told German radio last week.

The deals with China could run into tens of hillions of marks in the long run, he said.

He said Germany wanted more cooperation in high technology and to set up more joint ventures with small to medium-sized firms. But he declined to name firms that might be involved.

Millions of Britons silent for Armistice

LONDON (R) - Millions of Britons Saturday observed two minutes of silence to honour the dead of two world wars. Traffic ground to a hall and bus drivers stood in silence by the roadside. Betting shops halted gambling, National Lottery tills were silent and Harrods Department Store stopped trading. Even the England foutball team halted training in the buildup for their next international match. War veterans from the Royal British Legion had been backed by Prime Minister John Major in their campaign for a nationwide two-minute silence to commemorate the 1918 Armistice Day that ended World War I. The two-minute silence was well respected throughout the country and we are very ...? pleased that so many people took this opportunity to. reflect and remember," said Legion spokesman Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey

Miss Korea wins Miss Asia-Pacific crown

BAGUIO, Philippines

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(AFP) — Yoon Mi-Jung, a 21-year-old classical music student from South Korea, won the Miss Asia-Pacific title for 1995 at a colourful pageant in this northern resort city. Her victory late Saturday came as a surprise since she had rarely been mentioned as a favourite, Ms. Yoon, who plays the cello, takes over from Jessia Tapia of Peru, who won the 1994 pageant. India's Ruchitra Malhotra was crowned first runnerup, while Hsiao-Ping Chen of Taiwan was second runner-up in the contest which drew beauty queens from 27 Asia-Pacific countries. Pilar Abed of Peru and Malaysia's Previta Thiyagarajah ended as third and fourth runners-up, respectively. Ms. Yoon said in answer to a question on the role today's woman she wanted to "give the best to my husband and family. and be a good wife." She and Ms. Malhotra emotionally embraced after only two of them were left on the stage before the winner was announced. After the Indian heauty was named second runner-up, pandemonium broke as dozens of photographers jostled for the winner's picture.Ms. Yoon, the eldest of two children of Seoul husinessman Yoon Tu, won \$10,000 cash and other prizes. Her mother, who accompanied her to the Philippines, described the five-foot,

ated with a religious status.

was only a B

career and great one.

political visit with a stream Mr. Bolger said leaders gave little consideration to

Azeris go to polls in controversial general election

BAKU (AFP) - Voters in Azerbaijan went to the polls Sunday to elect the country's first post-Soviet parliament but four main opposition parties were excluded from standing.

The voters are also to pass iudgment on a new constitunon woich would signincantly expand the powers of rate of between 30 and 50 ex-Communist President. Geidar Aliyev.

The exclusion of four main opposition parties on technical grounds cast uncertainty over the election even before a single hallot was cast. Opposition leaders in the Caucasus republic bave denounced the election as a farce.

A Popular Front (PF) official said moreover Sunday that hallot scrutineers from the opposition had been refused entry to several polling stations, while at the end of October four journalists — including two PF candidates - and two other employees of an opposition paper were arrested and sentenced to terms of hard lahour for publishing "defamatory" portraits of

In an apparent conciliato- Aliyev, Azerbaijan's Brezbry gesture, Mr. Aliyev announced Sunday the six bad been pardoned.

figures had been released by 2 p.m. (1000 GMT) but an official at Azerbaijan's Central Electoral Commission cited a participation per cent in the country's regions.

A 50-per cent turnout is required for the controversial vote to be valid.

United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) noted "some problems" with the vote but believed no dramatic violations had taken place, a source at the international observer mission said.

The 4.26 million Azeris are eligible to vote for the 125 members of the Milli. Medilis, or parliament — 25 seats by proportional representation, 100 hy majority vote in constituencies.

The electorate will also decide on a referendum on a new constitution strengthening the powers of Mr.

nev-era leader who returned to take over the reins of power in the oil-rich republic two years ago. Mr. Aliyev, 72, hailed the No preliminary turnout

poll Sunday as he cast his vote here, welcomed at the polling station by children in traditional Azeri costume. "This (is a) historic day, the first in the history of

selves have the possibility of resolving our problems in a sovereign manner," Mr. Aliyev said. Observers from

"I hope, from the bottom of my heart, that the vote passes in a democratic fash-Eight parties are regis-

tered for the proportional voting and there are 387 candidates for the 100 constituency seats. The Popular Front of for-

Azerbaijan where we our-

mer President Ahulfaz Elchibey, overthrown in June 1993, is the only opposition party in the proportional poll, in which Mr. Alivev's own Eni Azer-haijan is favourite.

But four opposition parties have been excluded from elections, prompting opposition leaders to accuse Mr. Aliyev of manipulating the poll in his favour. Voters will also be consid-

ering the country's new draft constitution, denounced by opposition figures as a presidential into a mere rubber-stamp for Mr. Aliyev's decisions. But Mr. Aliyev has said

the new basic law will respect democratic principles and also help speed a settlement to the Nagomo-Karahakh conflict "by demonstrating to the entire world that the rights of the Armenian minority in Karabakh will be respect-

Nagorno-Karahakh, anenclave within Azerbaijan populated mostly by ethnic Armenians, has been riven hy six years of war triggered by Armenian demands for secession.

Seven seats have been reserved in the new parliament for the approximately one million Azeri refugees who have fled the conflict.

drugs and automatic Asahara was to bave gone on trial on Oct. 26 for the

police Sunday laid charges of manufacturing illegal Tokyo subway system. weapons against the leader of the doomsday cult accused of the nerve gas attack on Tokyo suhways in March, a police spokesman

Shinri Aum Куо (Supreme Truth Sect) leader Shoko Asahara, 40, was accused of ordering cult chemists to produce LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs to use along with poisonous gases to try to create urban chaos, the spokesman told Reuter.

The newest charges are the 10th set of offences laid against Asahara, who has been in police custody since May 16 after his arrest in

Japan guru accused of making LSD, guns

subway gas attack, in which 11 people died and about 5,000 were made ill, but the trial was postponed when he sacked his defence lawyer. He has since reappointed

counsel and is expected to go before a Tokyo court early next year. Asahara also faces murder charges connected to the executionstyle killing of sect members who sought to quit his cult and the slaying in 1989 of a lawyer who pressed lawsuits against Aum Shinri

The pulice spokesman said Sunday that Asahara also faced a separate charge connection with numerous of ordering cult members to

TOKYO (R) — Japanese crimes, including the March produce 1,000 automatic 20 sarin gas attack on the weapons modeled after the Soviet AK-47,..

pounds in the countryside west of Tokyo yielded a large number of gun parts, police said. The latest charges came as

Aum Shinri Kyo was fighting a court order to dishand for violations of the law on religious organisations, which allows a court to dissolve a religious group that commits illegal acts that harm the public interest. The Oct. 30 decision deprives the cult, which had

and thousands more overseas, of tax breaks and financial privileges associ-

Seoul prosecutors set stage for Roh's arrest SEOUL (R) - State proseprosecutors had officially

cutors set the stage Sunday for a possible arrest of South Korea's disgraced former President Roh Tae-Woo by saying they had evidence he took hribes for favours from husiness groups during his term in

nal action.

1993 term in office and said he still kept \$242 million when he left the presidential Blue House. Roh also said accepting money from business groups was normal practice in the past.

Senior state prosecutor Ahn Kang-Min, leading a probe into slush funds Mr. Roh amassed in office, told reporters Saturday prosecutors had evidence some business groups gave millions of dollars to Mr. Roh in return for favours.

that some business groups President Roh to win major state projects," he said, making clear they believed Mr. Roh had broken the law. This was the first time confirmed allegations husiness groups gave Mr. Roh

were considering summoning Mr. Roh again this week. He did not say Mr. Roh would be arrested, but prosecutors have told local reporters in off-the-record background briefings Mr. Roh is likely to be held if he is summoned, as expected, towards the end of this

"Prosecutors plan to finish questioning heads of conglomerates by Monday, resummon Mr. Roh sometime this week and arrest him for bribery," said the newspaper Dnng-A Ilho South Korean law sets

long jail terms for public servants who accept bribes. Several dozen husiness heads who have been called in by prosecutors have admitted only to giving him money as no-siringsattached gifts, not as kickbacks for lucrative projects.

Some heads of business groups are also expected to face arrest for graft, a prosecution official said Sunday. But he declined further comment.

Kim Woo-Choong, the clusirman of the giant Daewoo Group, arrived at the prosecutors' office Sunday evening. He is alleged to have helped Mr. Roh convert \$39 million in secret bank accounts into

10.000 members in Japan

legitimate accounts. "I will reveal everything to prosecutors," Mr. Kim said Sunday upon his arrival at the Seoul Kimpo Airport from an overseas business

Meanwhile, prosecutors Sunday were still questioning Mr. Roh's brother Jae-Woo. They are trying to find out it the hrother, who appeared for questioning Saturday, helped Mr. Roh invest his ill-gotten fortune in property.

The hrother is still being questioned. We believe that former President Roh bought property under the names of his brother and nephew," said the official, He did not rule out the

possibility of summoning Mr. Roh's son and nephew sometime this week. chairman The

Sunkyong Chey Jong-Hyun, who is also a relative of Mr. Roh by marriage, was sent home early Sunday morning after being grilled for nearly 20 hours.

nine-inch beauty as a "good daughter." That wasn't high C he missed — it

NEW YORK (AP) -Turns out Luciano Pavarotti, the king of the high C's, gave up his crown some time ago without telling anyone. The 60year-old tenor wasn't even trying for that lofty note last Saturday night at the Metropolitan Opera when he sang the role of Tonio in Donizetti's Daughter Of The Regiment, the part that made him a superstar 24 vears ago. Without informing his adoring public, be had transposed the fiendishly difficult aria "pour mes amis" a half-tone lower to make it easier to sing. He duly hit all the high notes, which were actually B naturals. It didn't work during the second performance, Wednesday. His voice cracked on a B and he gave way to an understudy at intermission. Though musically the difference is just a half-tone, symbolically the gulf is vast. High C bas become one of the supreme hurdles for operatic tenors - the equivalent of the fourminute mile(1.6 kilometers) for runners, the note that can make the difference between a modest

S. Korea gives Japan deadline to sack minister

SEOUL (R) - Seoul gave Tokyo a two-day deadline to sack a minister who made offensive remarks about Japan's colonial rule or face cancellation of a summit and a recall of its ambas-Yonbap News Agency said Sunday.

Seoul wants Management and Coordination Agency Minister Takami Eto sacked by Tuesday at the latest, before the opening of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum in Osaka, Youhap quoted an unnamed diplomat source as saying.

Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam are scheduled to meet in Osaka.

"The Seoul-Tokyo diplomatic row over Eto's controversial remarks will meet a crucial moment Monday or Tuesday," Yonhap quoted the source as saying. "If Japan fails to dismiss

E10 by then, and the Kim-

Murayama summit is conse-

quently called off. Seoul

will have no option hus to

recall Ambassador Kim."

Foreign Ministry officials Foreign Ministry, was quotwere not immediately available for comment on the threat to the summit or the recall of Amhassador Kim

South Korea first threatened Saturday 10 put off the summii unless Tokyo fired Mr. E10, who set off a storm hy saying Japan did "good things" during its colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yobei Kono late Friday dropped plans to visit South Korea Saturday after Seoul angrily rejected his trip as 'meaningless".

South Korea was already smarting from comments by Murayama who said Japan s annexation of Korea in 1910 that began 35 years of brutal colonial rule was legally valid.

"Minister Eto's remarks erupted even before we had time to soothe our anger over Prime Minister Tomiicbi Murayama's earlier remark. This time we cannot just let it pass." Kim Ha-Jung, director-general of the Asia Bureau in the ed by the Dong-A llho Sunday as saying. "The hall is now

Japan's court," he said. The Korea Herald said South Korea was taking a hard stance against Japan because of the "determinanon to use the dismissal of Mr. Eto to put a lid on remarks repeated by Japanese politicians advocating Japan's colonial rule of Korea".

But it will not be easy to get rid of Mr. Eto since he is a member of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party, the higgest partner in his coalinon that includes a powerful lobby opposing any apologies for Japan's

past aggression. Mr. Murayama was forced to back down from his comments, which were seen as a whitewash of Japanese wartime aggression, saying the annexation accord was signed on an "unequal foot-

The furore triggered fierce criticisms from both South and North Korea where hitter memories remain of

colonial rule, which ended in 1945 with Tokyo's defeat in World War II. An annual meeting of par-

liamentarians from South Korea and Japan was indefinitely postponed and. President Kim warned Japan 10 make a full apology for atrocities against Koreans. Japan "erected schools

and universities and substannally raised the level of education, laid 5,000 kilometres of railroads, conducted irrigation, improved port facilities and planted trees in the hills" during its 1910-45 rule. Mr. Eto said. He apologised for his comments but Seoul said it was not enough. .

Communist North Korea's Rodong Sinmun condemned Saturday Mr. Eto's saying the remark imperialists "Japanese enforced colonial education in Korea only to strangle the national education, and their huilding of railway and harhours only served the plundering of more local resources afterwards".

bribes. Mr. Ahn also said they

If arrested, Mr. Roh would become the first South Korean head of state, serving or retired, to face crimi-Mr. Roh has publicly confessed he amassed \$654 million during his 1988-

"Yes, we have evidence gave hribes to former

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(R) - Million,Saturday obser unutes of silence the dead of two s. Traffic ground and bus drivers silence by the Betting Shop, nbling, National s were silent and bepartment Store ading. Even the otball team hal in the buildup ext international British Legion Dacked by Prime John Major in apaign for apaign for two-minute 1 mmemorate di istice Day that ld War 1 - The e silence was cted through his and we are ver.

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(1.6 kilomeiers, the note ce the differ n a modest at one.

violence-wracked southern Pakistani city of Karachi, a police spokesman said

The two policemen and one of the civilians were killed in sniper fire in separate incidents late Saturday night in the city's Western

Orangi district. one of whom was allegedly tion and authorities.

a member of the opposition Mohajir Qaumi Movement - were killed in central and four other people in the Karachi also in separate

police officers. For months Karachi has been shattered by ethnic clashes between the city's The three other victims - majority Mohajir popula-

month, including 15 who were gunned down in an execution-style mass mur-

class citizens.

growing rift between Karachi's majority Mohajir

population and the govern-Mohajirs, or Indian Muslims, came to Pakistan when the country was established in 1947. Although gunmen linked to the they form the largest ethnic MQM. lished in 1947. Although

The MQM has accused

Police say the MQM has turned to more and more violent methods to press for their demand of equal rights. Policemen have become a favoured target of

Sri Lanka army captures rebel underground base

COLOMBO (R) - Sri Jaffna, were destroyed, they Lankan troops attacking the northern Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna captured an underground base as police conducted a sweep of Colombo after suicide bombings, security sources said Sunday,

With superior firepower troops overcame attempts by terrorists to delay the advance, causing heavy casualties to the terrorists, a military statement said of the Jaffna fighting.

"Preparations and reconnaissance for further operations are in progress," it added.

Rebel underground complexes found by troops in Kopai were being cleared and small arms, anti-tank mines and locally made mortar launchers were also captured, the statement said.

Tiger guerrillas, fighting a fierce rearguard action to defend Jaffna City, lost some 70 fighters Saturday, raising their death toll to more than 250 since the army resumed their push Friday after a two-week

lull, military sources said. Rebel fortifications in the area, among the last lines of the rebels' defence of

"There were several confrontations as our iroops pushed forward," a senior army officer told Reuters. "We lost 15 men and had 84 wounded."

Troops converging on Jaffna City on two axes of advance from their Paluly Air Base advanced two kilometres south Urumpirai as well as southeast of Kopai Junction, the military statement said.

Jaffna residents who arrived in Vavuniva, the northernmost 10wn under government control, said the rebels claimed to have destroyed a tank.

In Colombo, already under a right security blanker more roadblocks were set up and hundreds of people questioned over the attacks hy the suicide bombers, one of them a woman, in which 15 people, mostly civilians, died and more than 50 were wound-

One of the bombers tried to enter army headquarters while the other blew himself up nearby.

The two appear to have come alone," Colombo

Kotakadeniya told Reuters. They may have been waiting for an army VIP and may have had a deadline. We did a massive sweep of the city. Two suspects have

been detained." The armed forces chief kept away from Sunday's Remembrance Day ccremonies to commemorate the island's war dead after the two suicide bombings, in which army chief Licutenant General Gerry

De Silva may have been the larget, security sources said. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels have sent several hit squads to try to assassinate military chiefs as government troops close in on Jaffna in the

biggest Offensive of the 12year war, the sources said. Most of the town's civilian residents have fled, joining between 100,000 and 500,000 refugees camped at Chavakachcheri, east of Jaffna City, and south

across the Jaffna Lugoon in and around Kilinochehi on the mainland. The army, which launched the current offensive against

the rebels on Oct. 17, is advancing on strategic

points near Jaffna, the heart of the would-be homeland the rebels are fighting for in the island's north and east. More than 50,000 people have died in the war.

The army says more than 1,300 rebels have been killed and 4,000 wounded in the latest offensive. The army has lost more than 300 soldiers and had over 1,800 wounded.

In easiem Batticaloa, eight police commandos died when rebels amhushed their pairol Saturday, the statement said.

Police said the arrest last Sunday of two Catholic priests for trying to smuggle banned goods and money into the rebel-held north provided evidence that churchmen were helping guerrillas.

"No doubt the church is an accomplice," a senior police officer told Reuters. This is nothing new. Even on previous occasions we found the church giving support to the rebels,"

A church spokesman said the church gave the money at the pricsts' request to

army headquarters in Colombo (AFP photo) Kremlin disturbed by failure to end Chechenya war

Residents and rescue workers carry a wounded man away from the site of a powerful bomb blast near Sri Lankan

leaders are troubled by the failure to end the 11-monthold war in Chechenya and are pushing to end it soon, Prime Minister Viktor Cher-

nomyrdin said Friday. Even as he spoke, however, the Russian military was reporting stepped-up conflicts involving Cbechen fighters, saying the rebels had used mortars and heavy weapons against Russian

Mr. Chemomyrdin said he and President Boris Yeltsin were extremely disturbed by the continuing clashes. "We are now doing every-

thing we can to end the con-

British Prime Minister John

Major rejected Irish criti-

cism Sunday that his intran-

sigence was blocking the

Northern Ireland peace

process and pointed the fin-

ger of hlame firmly at the IRA's political wing, Sinn

Mr. Major was responding

o a call Saturday by Irish

Prime Minister John Bruton

for Britain to drop its insis-

tence on making all-party

peace talks dependent on

disarming Irish Republican

Army (IRA) guerrillas and

to back a reasonable com-

Speaking at Auckland

Commonwealth

Airport at the end of a visit

to New Zealand for the

summit, Mr. Major's annoy-

ance with Mr. Bruton was

He said Britain and

Ireland had prepared an

KATHMANDU (AFP) —

At least 52 trekkers were

Sunday following three

avalanches in the Hima-

layas in Nepal's worst

The missing were believed to be of many

Britons, Canadians, French,

Germans and Japanese,

though little information

was immediately available

from the remote areas.

Rescue workers sent heli-

copiers after land searches

proved futile, police said.

Nepal authorities put rescue

efforts on a war footing

with both army and police

At least 26 people - 13

Japanese trekkers and 13

Nepalese porters --- were

feared dead in an avalanche

early Saturday which hit

(AP) — Gunmen shot and

killed two police officers

personnel participating.

including

avalanche disasters ever.

nationalities,

police said.

missing and feared dead

promise.

AUCKLAND (R)

ITAR-TASS news agency. "I don't want to forecast the exact time limits, but we have recently agreed on several radical decisions and have done much to end the conflict in the Chechen

Republic and to stabilise the

situation there." Speaking to a gathering at the unveiling of a memorial to 38 Russian servicemen who were killed during a time of peace, he urged law enforcement bodies to "subdue the murky wave of criminal encroachments" in

Chechenya. He added: "We shall not

Major rejects criticism over

banding in weapons, but Dublin had pulled out at the

eleventh hour from a sum-

mit in September that was

meant to endorse the plan.

emment that backed away.

It was the Irish government

that didn't proceed with that

meeting because it came

under pressure from Sinn

Fein and other people," Mr.

He said he knew Mr.

Bruton was under heavy

domestic pressure to make

progress on talks to cement

14 months of fragile peace

in Northern Ireland but

insisted Britain was not at

Mr. Major put the onus

squarely on the IRA and

Sinn Fein, which want to

reunite the British-ruled

province with the predomi-

nantly Catholic Irish

Republic to the south.
Parties representing

Major said.

'It wasu't the British gov-

allow any war against the flict as quickly as possible," be said, according to the Chechen people. But proper counter-actions will be taken against the irreconcilable armed formations."

The war began last December when Mr. Yeltsin sent tens of thousands of troops into Cbechenya to end its three years of selfdeclared independence.

Checbenya since the top commander. Russian Romanov, was Anatoly seriously injured in a bomb attack early last month. Despite the hostilities, an electoral official in Che-

would simply not agree to talks until the IRA banded

in the arms with which it

fought British rule for 25

years before it declared a

truce in September 1994,

lies with Sinn Fein and Sinn

Fein's complete reluctance

to tackle the question, even

with an international body

of how their arsenal of

weapons and explosives are

going to be taken out of

Britain has proposed an

international panel to advise

on ways of handling the

weapons issue. Sinn Fein

has rejected the idea, saying

disarmament is a subject for

and no weasel words to the

contrary will change that

hard reality," Mr. Major

He accused Sinn Fein

The blockage is theirs

the talks it wants.

commission," he said.

'The problem above all

Mr. Major said.

government

Friday that the republic will hold elections for Russian parliament like the rest of the nation on Dec. 17. A July military accord

providing for rebel disarmament and partial Russian withdrawal has collapsed. Nightly clashes rock Chechenya and efforts to renew peace talks have

Tensions have escalated in Movlen Solanov, assistant to Chechenya's separatist president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, told ITAR-TASS Friday that peace talks can resume "only if there are firm guarantees of non-resumption of hostilities with interchenya's Russian-installed maintained national control."

dering the chance of talks

by issuing veiled threats if

"What is not a surter is

for people to make it clear

that they would resort to

violence if they don't get

their way in talks and then

expect to be admitted to

talks... That isn't on," Mr.

The long-distance slang

ing match underscores the

increasingly fragile nature

of the peace process in Northern Ireland, just two weeks before U.S. President

Bill Clinton visits the

Two huge car bombs were

discovered Friday that secu-

rity sources believe were

meant for an attack on a

British army hase.

Ownership of the bombs

was claimed by a hardline

lrish Republican splinter

group that broke away from

province.

they do not get their way.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - Space shuttle Atlantis punched through low clouds Sunday on its return mission to Russia's orbiting station, this time with a docking port and construction crew,

Shuttle Atlantis blasts off on Russian mission weather at the shuttle emergency landing strips across the Atlantic might delay the flight for the second day in a row, but skies cleared sufficiently at one of the touchdown sites in Spain.

Atlantis rose from its seaside pad at 7:30 a.m. (1230

GMT), after the Russian space station Mir soared 395 kilometres (245 miles) above. The shuttle slipped into orbit eight minutes

later. "We hope you have a good ride up to Mir." NASA lest director Bill Dowdell told the astronauts just before liftoff.

"Sorry we had to do this twice, but I think we're ready now and everything lonks good," replied shuttle Commander Kenneth Ca-

NASA had feared had Bangladesh ferry disaster claims 75

lives DHAKA (R) - At least 75 people were missing feared drowned after a crowded ferry capsized in northern Bangladesh and some 200 fishermen were still missing following a severe coastal storm, officials said

Sunday. As relatives continued searching for fishermen missing after a storm last Thursday in the Bay of Bengal, a ferry carrying 175 people trying to reach a flood relief centre sank

"About 100 people swam ashore or were picked up hy other boats. But the rest are feared to have drowned," one official told

reporters Sunday. Almost 24 hours after the bout capsized on the northern Teesta River, rescuers have retrieved only one body, officials said.

They said the ferry was caught in a strong current on its way to reach a relief centre where flood survivors collect their weekly government ration.

"This is particularly shocking because the victims were expecting to grab food for their families," said one official in the district of Rangpur.

Witnesses said the small ferry was overcrowded. "The ferry's operators could not resist people trying to board it. They were desperate not to miss it," one witness told reporters.

ers in Cox's Bazar told reporters meanwhile that a freighter picked up 12 fishermen alive from the sea Saturday but about 200 others caught Thursday's storm bad still not been found.

Fishing community lead-

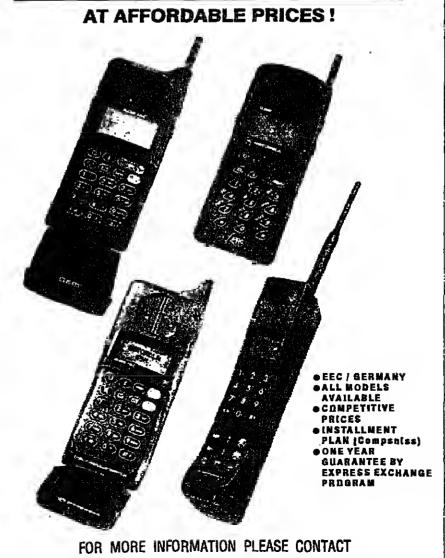
Bangladesh does not have a Coast Guard and searches are carried out by relatives of missing fishermen, fishing community leader Ekramul Hossain Chowdhury said Sunday.

He said hopes of the fisbermen being found alive were fading and the search might be called off soon.



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Northern Ireland's promainstream Sinn Fein in leaders Gerry Adams and extremely good compromise on the key issue of British Protestant majority Martin McGuinness of hin-52 missing in Nepal's worst avalanche disaster

said.

22 kilometres northwest of Syangboche Airport in the Namche Bazar near Mount region, police said. Everest, police said. There "Another group of 150 trekkers and local Sherpa

were 54 people camping in Gokyo when the avalanche occurred hut the fate of the poners were seen from the others was not immediately rescue helicopter moving towards Gokyo Valley dig-Another 18 were reported ging through deep snow," police said in a statement, missing in an avalanche late adding snow was nearly Friday further north of Gokyo. This group was two-and-a-half metres (8 feet) deep.

believed to include British, French and German "The trekkers in the trekkers, authorities said. Everest region are facing a Eight trekkers, including food shortage and warm at least one Canadian, were clothes and whatever little feared dead after they were they had in their rucksacks huried under heavy snow were lost in the avalanche." late Friday in the Mustang the message said.

Mountaineering guide Ang Gyalzen Sherpa said area, 375 kilometres northwest of Kathmandn, police avalanches killing mountaineers were always a risk Seventy-eight people, including 43 foreign trekhut "the death of so many kers, were aidifted late trekkers much below the Himalayan foothills like in Salurday and early Sunday from the Gokyo area by Gokyo Valley is quite rare." heavy snow Friday and Asian Airlines and Nepal

'Airways, which used the Saturday and high winds were hlamed.

Rescue helicopters left here Sunday morning to comh the foothills of Everest and were expected to return late Sunday afternoon, said a spokesman for Trans Himalayan Travel and Tour, which handled the trekking tour for the 26 people missing at the Gokyo

> worst previous occurred in 1972 when 14 climbers, mostly South Koreans, died following an avalanche on the 8,163 metre (26780 foot) Mount Manaslu, the world's eighth

tallest peak, officials said. The second worst moun-

tain accident occurred last November when 11 climbers — nine Germans, one Swiss and a Nepalese guide — died on Pisang

their lodge in Gokyo about kill two in Karachi shootings KARACHI, Pakistan

sniper attacks. No one has claimed responsibility for the The violence stems from a killings, but authorities blame extremists from the MQM for the deaths of the

ment.

More than 60 people have group in Karachi, they say been killed so far this they face widespread discrimination.

the government of violence against Mohajirs and says they are treated like second Chairman of the Board of Directors: MARMOUD AL KAYED

Director General: MOHAMMAD AMAD Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH Filtional and advertising offices:

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Time for bold moves

A POLL published by an Israeli daily Friday indicates that 74 per cent of Israelis support Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his determination to implement all aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian accords, including the Oslo II deal. The results of this poll represent a significant shift in the Israeli public opinion, which, on the eve of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, was evenly divided on the issue. It is not clear, so far, whether the public mood would influence the Israeli Knesset which was almost evenly split on Oslo II with 61 memhers voting in favour and 59 against the deal.

It is not clear, however, whether the shift in the Israeli public opinion is the result of a genuine change of heart on the peace process or a temporary reaction created by the shock with which the Israeli society is dealing after the assas-

sination of Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Peres could be still riding on the crest of the sympathy vote that developed in the aftermath of Israel's first political assassination. But if the overwhelming vote of confidence in the peace talks with Palestinians turns out to be lasting, then the legacy of Mr. Rabin would bear fruit. Most probably, though, the aftershocks of the assassination will prove to be deep and profound enough to sway most Israelis in support of a comprehensive regional peace. When many Israelis hegin to view the extremist amongst them as the real enemy, then a real transformation in Israeli public opinion will certainly materialise, strengthening the hands of Mr. Peres and his government.

It must have dawned on the greater majority of Israelis that Jewish fundamentalism and fanaticism are no different from extremism on the other side of the fence. Extremists are one and the same no matter where they are situated and irrespective of their origin. As long as most Israelis keep on remembering that the enemies of peace are also their enemies, there will be real hope for peace in the Middle East.

We therefore hope that Mr. Peres and his team would seize the opportunity made possible hy a weakened camp of Israeli rejectionists to push the peace process forward. Now, it seems, is the time to make bold moves for building peace on all fronts, especially the Syrian

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily Sunday criticised Jordanian theatre groups who present satire and comedy performances on stage indirectly showing displeasure with peace. Yousef Ghazu said that peace is sought by the people of this region who have been tired of wars and are yearning for security, stability and construction. What is the point on presenting satirical comedies criticising the peace process at Jordanian theatres? asked the writer. Those who reject peace for no reason memble those who refuse to have

lands, said the writer. Democracy opens me way for people to say no to peace when peace is not based on the principles of justice, but does not advocate continued hostilities in this region, stressed the writer. He said it is the enemies of mankind and those who are devoid of all human feelings and senses continue to act as war mongers and calling for the shedding of blood because such situation could serve their own selfish interests. The writer said that cultural activities, including plays in the Jordanian theatres, ought to be dedicated to serving the real interests of the Jordanian people and the Arab Nation.

NAWAF ZARU, a writer in Al Dustour, directed attention to Iraq, criticising the latest extension of the U.N. embargo on the Arab country as an unjustified act. The writer said that the five year emhargo seems directly connected with the interests of the United States, which has total hegemeny on the U.N. Security Council and its resolutionsn and not related to Iraq's abidance by the council's resolutions. While holding on to an excuse that Iraq is producing weapons of mass destruction, the council and the world community continues to ignore the fact that Israel is far ahead of Iraq in its continued nuclear programmes, said the artier. He said while the Security Council claims to be imposing penalty on Iraq for waging war on Kuwait, it is totally condoning Israel's acts of aggression on the Arab countries in the past decades.

Human Rights File

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

'Germany goes too far in defending freedom of expression'

THE HIGHEST court in Germany ruled few days ago that expressing the view that "soldiers are murderers" is a right protected under the principle of free speech. I find this extension of the right to free expression and free speech unwarranted to say the least. It is one thing to express a view against militarism or armament but to state in categorical terms that all members of the armed forces are killers or murderers is something that should not be tolerated or protected by law.

Almost all of the democratic countries of the world offer alternative service to conscientious objectors who for religious or even ideological reasons refuse military service. This much is quite defensible and protected under international human rights law. But to go as far as depicting people who accept or chose to serve their country in its armed forces as murderers is rantamount to overstating the right to freedom of speech or expression and can be expected to draw a hacklash against this right in due

In order to guard freedoms and sustain them in the long run, these freedoms must be pursued, practised and defended in a sensible and reasonable way. Of all citizens, army personnel deserve a special treatment because they often put their lives on the line for the security and stability of their respective nations. That is why many advanced states accord their soldiers the right to vote and this principle has become a strongly entrenched right in international law.

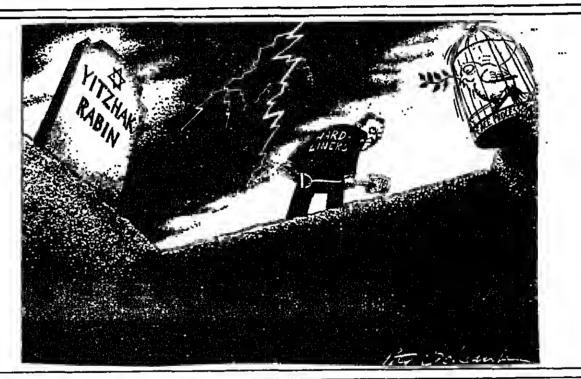
Normally if a person says or writes that soldiers are murderers, each and every soldier would automatically acouire a right to take such a person to task by instituting a case against him or her in a court of law on grounds of libel or defamation. A class action can be lodged to court on bebalf of all affected soldiers and damages can be collected on this basis. What the ruling of the high court of Germany purports to do now is to take away even this modest claim for reparation and redress by making such utterances or expressions lawful. In other words, instead of increasing the rights of soldiers for adequate remedies, the German court decided to wipe them off completely.

Germany occupies the central stage in Europe and what it courts rule will undoubtedly have ripple effects on the entire European continent. That is why efforts must be made to contain the negative side effects of this latest judicial decision by resorting to two avenues that are still available for its rectification. The first option is to submit a complaiot to the Human Rights Committee (HRC) on Civil and Political Rights by German soldiers affected by the ruling. Under the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the committee has a mandate to look into individual complaints of persons alleging violations of their rights under the ICCPR. A decision by the committee on this point would be legally binding for Germany, including its highest court. In other words any judgement rendered by the committee on this issue to the contrary would effectively reverse the German decision and render it voidable.

True the procedures of the HRC are too slow. First the members would bave to decide whether to accept the consideration of the issue brought up for their attention. The committee would have to examine if the complaint raises a question under the provisions of the ICCPR. Then it would declare the submission admissable. This procedure takes sometimes years during which the state party as wellas the plaintiff would be repeatedly asked to respond to each other's points of view. When there is only an issue of law under examination, the committee would be better positioned to make a ruling. When there are issues of fact that have strong bearings on the case or issues of law, the committee often feels incapacitated to act since it lacks an independent machinery to establish the facts surrounding the complaint. As can be imagined, the process of examining submissions becomes unduly long and tedious. Still at the end of the day, perhaps two years hence, there could be a committee decision that is mandatory on the country in question.

The second recourse available to a complainant is to go to the European Human Rights Court in Strasbourg where the European Convention of Human Rights could be involved to seek redress from the German decision. The procedures of the court are likewise long and many months f not years would elapse before a judgement is rendered. Unlike the HRC, though, the European Court allows for the presence of the complainant in person during its deliberations or through a lawyer of his choosing. This makes its proceeding closer to judicial processes than its international counterpart. The European Court as well as the Human Rights Committee, however, have both already ample jurisprudence on freedom of expression and no doubt would render judgements that are based on relevant law and international jurisprudence.

Other than that, the international community as well as Germany would be stuck with an interpretation of the freedom of expression that goes way beyond the realm of reason and common sense. One cannot describe another person as a killer or criminal when the laws of his land not only legalise military service but also make it compulsory, especially in times of war. It is hard to comprehend what exactly went through the minds of the German judges who pronounced themselves on this point. Ohviously there were some dissenting opinions who did not want to go so far in defending freedom of expression. The result, though, could be alarming to all states which are flirting with the policy of expanding freedom of expression. We all have seen how too liberal a construction of freedom of expression in Israel has led to a climate of hate and violence that culiminated in the assassination of Prime Mihister Yitzhak Rabin. Closer to home, His Majesty King Hussein has drawn attention to this problem in his speech to senior officers of the armed and security forces few days ago. We really bave to be very careful about how far we want to go in expanding freedom of expression. We certainly do not wish to go as far as Germany or Israel for that matter in this vein. Yet we must not allow our legitimate concerns disrupt the basic tenets and objectives of free press. Free and responsible press is, the corner stone of all democracles. It is one thing to put a lid on undue liberalisation of this pillar of democracy and quite another to suffocate it altogether,



Rabin was right, so let the majority's silence end

By Thomas L. Friedman WASHINGTON - I desperately want to write a column saying that despite the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rahin of Israel, the peace process hetween Israel and the Arabs will survive. I am not

The reason is that this is a case where the death of one man really can make an enomrous difference. It was only Yitzhak Rahin, among contemporary Israeli leaders, who had the credibility and conrage to sell the peace treaty with (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat to the Israeli public.

Israel's foreign minister. Shimon Peres, deserves enormous credit for having the initial vision to see the possibility for a breakthrough between Israel and the Palestinians, and to push Mr. Rabin in that direction. But it was Mr. Rabin who, once convinced that Mr. Arafat was ready to deal, persuaded Istaelis that they could trade land for peace with their mortal enemy. They would not have bought the deal from

anyone else.
There are two reasons. One is that Mr. Rabin was the Israeli everyman. He was deeply in touch with

silent majority. His gruff, no-nonsense approach to life epitomised the personality of the native-born Israeli Sahra. He did not take any flak from anyone. And, like the Israeli si-

lent majority Prime Minister Rabin always made clear that he was making peace with the Palestinians not because he liked them but because he believed that it was the hest way to guarantee a secure and prosperous Israei, because he believed that Israelis would never be able to feel at home unless the Palestinians did as well.

Having just spent two weeks travelling through the Middle East. I am convinced that the peace process that Mr. Rabin so boldly helped to set in motion is very real - but now we are going to find out just how

One thing I learned a long time ago is that sometimes the news is in the noise and sometimes the news is in the silence, and the real story in the Middle East since Sept. 13, 1993, when Mt. Rabin and Mr. Arafat shook hands at the White House, has been the silence with which the vast majority of Israelis and Palestimans accepted this

peace and wanted to see it Aviv office schmoozing abgo forward. out the peace process. In The people who heard that silence most loudly, the his low-key manner he thanked me for a column I people who were driven had written in defence of crazy hy that silence, were the extremes in both com-

mosque, but they could not

stop the process. The silent

majorities were too strong.

So now they have gone to a

new extreme. Instead of

killing each other, and hop-

ing that it would explode

the peace, they have begun

to kill their own.

what he was doing. As always, he smoked like a chimney. He looked munities. The Jewish and Muslim fanatics. They heard the silence within thin and worn down. But the one thing that struck me their communities and dewas the contrast between cided that they had to do his physical appearance and something about it - to the words he spoke, which make sure that this peace were steely, brimming with process did not go forward. vigor and more committed They knew that to hreak through the silence they than ever to going forward

with the Palestinians. had to engage in something When a friend asked me more than garden-variety later how I found Mr. terrorism. They had to engage in acts of violence so Rabin, I said that he struck me as "a man on a misunspeakable that they sion." He knew just where might be able to create a he was going, and he was teady to take any heat to tit-for-tat situation that would unravel the new relaget there, and he did not tionship between Israelis and Arabs. care whom he offended along the way, because he For two years the Jewish was sure in his soul that what he was doing was best for Israel and the Jewish and Muslim lunatics tried their hest, with suicide bombs and killings in a

people.

I know he was right, and I pray that the Israeli silent majority he tepresented so well will find a way to complete his courageous mission. Good-bye, Yitzhak. I will forever be proud to tell my children and my children's children that we were friends.

I saw Mr. Rahin 10 days ago. We spent an hour together sitting in his Tel The New York Times.

Three good things about Russia

By Gwynne Dyer

BORIS YELTSIN is in hospital again, and looking less and less likely to be a candidate in Russia's presidential election oext April. Average Russian per capita income, in terms of purchasing power, is about half what it was when the Soviet Union died in 1991. Parliamentary elections are due on Dec. 17. What if the Communists come hack?

Moscow is quite grim this autumn, with Mr. Yeltsin staggering (in several senses of the word) to the end of his term, and the Com-munisty Party leading all others in the polls. But here are three hopeful signs that democracy is going to survive in Russia.

The first is precisely the fact that Boris Yeltsin is in hospital again, for the second time this year. He eave Russia political stability while it weot through the most painful economic upheavals of the post-Soviet era, but he has outlived his usefulness. If Mr. Yeltsin's pride and his entourage won't allow him to quit maybe his ailing heart will now force him to.

Mr. Yeltsin is no mere clown, but he was never an intellectual giant either. And back in the late 80s, when he suddenly became famous by winning 88 per cent of the vote in the all-Moscow constituency against the official Com munist Party candidate, Russia's democratie opposi tion went into shock.

They realised with horror that this apparatchik from the Urals was bound to become president of Russia as soon as free elections were held. He, not they, held the key to the future. So they took a brave and brilliant gamble. They made him their leader - on condition that he learn their democratic ideals and prin-

Mr. Yeltsin was an empty vessel, an ex-Marxist He was ready to be filled np with the first plausible doctrine that anybody poured into him. So the Inter Regional Deputies' Group (as the democratic opposition in the Soviet parliament was then called) literally ran a rota on him. For months, you never saw him

Morning, noon and night, in the hasement cafeteria of the Supreme Soviet or in the hotel bars and restaurants around Revolution Square, you would see Mr. Yeltsin flanked by one of the leading lights of the democratic opposition Sergei Stankeyevich, Galina Starovitova, even Andrei Sakharov himself always engaged in teaching

Several of those people said to me quite openly in 1990 that Mr. Yeltsin's job was to spend his huge popularity to get Russia over the hump of democratisation. I did not know Mr. Yeltsin well, but in several conthe impression that he himself understood that that was his historical role.

Of course, he has changed his entourage several times since then: first the hright young economic reformers, and latterly his old apparatchik cronies from his home town of Sverdlovsk. He has spent all his popularity, and barely beats Gorbachev in the polls. But he has got Russia over the worst of the transi-

Inflation is now down to 50 per cent a year, Moscow streets are jammed with new cars, and even industrial production may start to recover this year. It is time for Mr. Yeltsin to go, however, and maybe he even knows it. But he can't go, partly because those around him now would not survive his fall.

"I don't think Yeltsin really wants to run for president (again)." Sergei Mar-kov of the Carnegie Institute for Peace said recently, but there are corrupt forces on his team who owe their livelihood to him.

They know that if the opposition forces come to power they will be pushed... into prisoo."

Mr. Yeltsin doesn't know how to quit, but his failing health may now take the decision out of his hands, That would allow more credible leaders like Prime Minister Viktor Chemomyrdin and Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the centreright Yabloko Party, to mobilise pro-democracy forces for the coming elec-

Otherwise, the Communists are likely to win in December — hut here's the second good thing: the Russian Communists are not that bad any more. They are not as completely reformed as the excommunists who returned to power as 'socialists' in thuania, Hungary and Poland in the past two years. But under the leadership of Gennady Zyuganov they have moved away from Russian nationalism and pan-Slavism, effectively rejecting an alliance with the hard right in the so-called 'red-brown coali-

"Mr. Yeltsin doesn't know how to quit, but his failing health may now take the decision out of his hands. That would allow more credible leaders like Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the centre-right Yabloko Party, to mobilise prodemocracy forces for the coming elections."

Instead, they have repositioned themselves as he softhearted defenders of the underdogs. "There used to be a huge part of our society who lived not too prosperously but in absolute security. They have lost everything now and we have to take care of them," says Zyuganov - and it is those 80 million people whom he sees as the electoral hasis for a com-

But it would be an electoral comeback, temporary and teversible. Even if the Communists and their Agrarian allies get a parliamentary majority on Dec. 17, they are unlikely to tamper fundamentally with the economic reforms or with democracy.

And the third good thing? Well, you probably heard that Nobel Prizewinner Russian dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn, famous for his diatribes about how the decadent West has undermined traditional Russian values, got a chat show on Russian TV when he went home from his Vermont exile six months ago.

After a few months the old ranter stopped bothering with guests, and just devoted his full programme to haranguing his viewers about the iniquities of the free market and democracy, the need for pan-Slavic unity, and other familiar right-wing obsessions. So the viewers voted with their feet, and last month the network pulled the plug on Mr. Solzhenitsyn.

The nationalist extreme right in Russia is in retreat, and though the Communists are making a comeback. they are just another party now. Mr. Yeltsin has done the job — and if his health gives him the pretext to retire from the scene before the elections, the moderates might even win them.

Bid Hayton

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Jung Deputy Abdul km Al Dughmi delmered lutimed from page 1)

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emonstration. Sading beneath a huge Same of her late husband ≝ibanner bearing the war. Shalom Haver." Sme Friend." she said: Institute he was happy as there he met his come Mr. Rabin's harp criticism for tailures on the night

Inhak always hac anything could hap There is nothing hair to reproach is us dressed in the sample blue suit which a ceremony ear a the day at Mr. Rabin the Mount Herrican cemetery in cemetery in Jerr

Light to believe that the shippe will not be in the have entered a ne 10 leaders members attending meeting llisted in the legion in the legion was are:

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Mafraq Deputy Abdul
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nt exile sit w months the opped bother ests, and just all programme g his viewers quities of the and democrafor pan Slavic other familiar bsessions. So ted with their st month the

isyn. Blist extreme a is in retreat. he Commun g a comeback. another party tsin has done d if his health e pretext to scene before the moder en win them. By Bill Hayton

ONLY THE breeze blowing off the Straits of Hormuz makes the summer heat of Bandar Abbas bearable. It is an inglorious town, with large areas of poor housing and not much to recommend it apart from to recommend a apart to a report to recommend to apart to a responsition on the Gulf, its image port complex up the into prison. be one big market and you only have to step off the rive at their destination. Incredibly, within the

fair: it almost qualifies as a ise, the Communities, with its shops selling hikely to win shell sculptures of the kind od thing: the Rue English south coast. The munists are no pier also provides further any more The evidence for one universal as completely the provider of just to save your shirt.
Although one doesn't see as the transmall boys is the same ts who returned everywhere. Making lots of

lavism, effective ramp.

g an alliance with Up the ramp stretches a propose. This is the right in the w queue of people. This is the ed-brown cosh local taxi to ferry people to the islands off the straits

Letter from Bandar Abbas

which, although they are quite near, can barely be seen through the heat haze. Once full, the boats hammer off at high speed into the nothingness. The ticket collector, invariably a small boy, rides rodeostyle at the front holding on to a rope as the taxi bounds and crashes across the waves. There doesn't seem too much concern for passenger safety amongst members of the Hormuz taxi association and one has to wonder how many fare-payers fail to ar-

tunnels of the bazaar it is hotter still. Inside the arched walkways, each shopkeeper has installed an air-conditioning unit which, while blasting ice-cold air into the shops also pumps out heat into the alleyways. From time to time you have to stand inside a shop selling Japanese-made oven-to-table ware and make conversation with the owner

the relaxation of women's dress codes that is taking place in Tehran, the different way the women dress here makes the atmosphere in the bazaar seem lighter than in the capital. Many of the women, those with roots on the other side of the Gulf, cover themselves Sari-style rather than in chadors. Their choice of floral prints, albeit in shades of black and white, make one suspect that

shop in town to market a monochrome summer col-

Bazaaris are never happy, but in Bandar Abbas today they are grumpier than usual. Most depend on the smuggling trade across the narrow mouth of the Gulf their shops are nurmally stocked full of electrical and electronic equipment brought from Dubai and fran's own free trade areas on Kish and Qeshm islands. At the moment, however, their shelves are looking distinctly threadbare. One shop window boasts a few household chemicals and, strangely, 10 hottles of Vimto which look as if they've been there since Mossadegh was top-pled. Perhaps they will nev-

The bazaaris blame the government, which has tightened up its antismuggling operations along the borders. Out in the Gulf, the Iranian coastguard is intercepting many more smugglers' speedboats than it used to. As a result, the smugglers are demanding higher prices from the baraaris who, in turn, are charging more to their customers. The customers, however, know that the increased surveillance will have to stop some time soon, and they're waiting for the prices to fall

er be sold. Iranian kids

seem to prefer Coca Cola.

before they buy. The cause of the antismuggling drive is the U.S. trade embargo. Rafsan-

jani's government fears getting short of hard currency. so it wants to reassert contrul over imports and prevent Bandar's traders spending their dollars over the water. However, they are going to have to steer a fine line if they are avoid the resentment of bazaaris who can't sell and consum-

The revolution has not reduced the Iranian population's desire for material possessions only, arguably, its ability to obtain them. The Tehranis I am with are here to buy Japanese electronics or its cheap imitations: Sony or, failing that, Soni, and they are sorely disappointed not to find them. This cuts two ways.

ers who can't, or won'r huy,

For some it means that their government should mend its fences with the U.S. giving succour to Rafsanjani in his struggle with his opponents, whilst for others it's just another reason to despise the government. Whilst not being able to buy cheap radios is unlikely to turn them into revolutionaries instantly, it may be a factor in a general mood swing which would cause the political apparatus to crack down on signs of dissent. If that happens, the Revolutionary Guards won't be turning a hlind eye to the cigarette selling, and then the people of Bandar may get seriously upset.

The Middle East Interna-

For diehard Quebec separatists, hope arises even in defeat

By David Crary The Associated Press

MONTREAL - Jokesters call it the "neverendum" — Quebee separatists lose one secession referendum, and swiftly call for another.

But for French-speaking spearatists like Celine Gascon, it's no joke. At age 63. she yearns for independ-ence from Canada before she dies.

"I'm quite positive it will happen," she said. "I just hope it will be in my life-

She poured her energy into the recent referendum campaign, which the separatists narrowly lost last week, by 53,000 votes out of 4.8 million cast. Though disappointed, Ms. Gascon is ready to try again - "in a couple of years.'

Her passion, shared by hundreds of thousands of other French nationalists across Quebec, is incomprehensible to most Canadians in other provinces. They tend to view the separatists as whiners, exaggerating grievances while mancuvering for special political privileges.

To the separatists, privileges and grievances are no longer relevant. They don't want to be recognised as a "distinct society" with-in Canada. Nor do they seek to bargain any mure for control over language policy X or social expenditure Y. They want a country of their own, to be run themselves.

"We'll make mistakes. but they will be our mis-takes," said Ms. Gascon, a painter who lives in Montreal with her husband, Fernand, a retired engineer.

The nationalist crusade can be measured in decades, or even in centuries. as reflected in the Quebec license-plate slogan: "Je me souviens" — 1 remember. French Quebeckers bit-

terly evoke their ancestors' defeat by the British in 1759 in a war of little modern relevance to Englishspeaking Canada. They bristle over rebuffs and repression that occurred before their parents were born.

appeared," columnist Gwynne Dyer wrote in the Montreal Gazette. "Thanks to several generations of mass immigration... English Canada' today is neither British, nor Protestant, nor overwhelmingly white nor even dimly aware

CANADA ..

of the ancient conflicts and humiliations that still obsess French-Canadian ethnic nationalists. Many French Quebeckers do not travel much in the rest of Canada — they prefer winter holidays in Florida, Their news media

Canadians outside Ouebec. And communications can be difficult even within the province.

only sporadically attempt to

delve into the thinking of

Ms. Gascon said she stopped trying to discuss separatist politics with English-speaking neighbours in Quebec because "we don't speak the same language." She speaks perfect English --- she was talk-

ing about a deeper gap.

More than half of the 5.5
million French Quebeckers do not think of themselves as Canadians, polls indicale. Many home fans at Montreal Canadians hockey games routinely boo hen the national anthem. "O Canada," is played be-

fore the opening face-off. "We're a small minority great danger of being assimilated," said Ms. Gas-con. "We're Francophone Quebeckers in our hearts and in our guis. I want to preserve our language and culture. I want my grandchildren to be able to live in French, and be citizens of the country we built.

in a sea of Anglophones in

North America. We're in

That was the chant echoed over and over at separatist rallies during the referendum campaign, and at the tearful gatherings on election night when defeat became undeniable: "On veut un pays" - we want a country.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien, a Ouebecker himself, led the referendum fight against the separatists and now promises a range of political changes to make staying in Canada mure palatable.

Mr. Bouchard - and the Gascons all over Quebec who support him - are not interested.

"We will not be begging for anything more." Mr. Bouchard said. "Those people have nothing to offer us. ... The next step will be a referendum, a sovereignty mandate, and then there we'll be at the table, discussing one on one, equal to equal.'

Laura Ashley bas opened a King attends Mafraq rally, voices pride in Jordanians

Yeltsin (Continued from page 11

know how "All through the past years to but his make available for the Jordahealth may man youth, for young men and women, the opportunity ke the deci to attain higher education, of of his which I was deprived, so that they can confront the future S. That and the life's challenges allow mon good education," King Hus-

Together we have stood ime Minis firm in defence of the land ctor Cher, and in construction in the face of all odds. We have now din all reached the stage where we y Yavlin are preparing to move for-ward in a new march towards der of the reconstruction and prog-

an address at the rally voicing his community's best wishes to the King on his birthday and pledging their continued allegiance to and support for the Hashemite throne.

Mr. Dugbmi presented the King with a golden sword as a gift from the Al Hassan tribes in the governorate.

The King was accorded a tumultuous welcome from the local citizens, singing national songs and performing traditional dances at the rally site, which was decorated with posters, flags and the King's portraits.

In Amman, Their Majes-ties King Hussein and Queen Noor on Sunday received Queen Sofia of Spain and Spanish Crown Prince Philip upon their arrival at Amman

Queen Sofia and Prince Philip arrived here to congratulate King Hussein on his birthday on behalf of King Juan Carlos and the Spanish

Philip were accompanied by Also receiving them at the airport were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal

Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Prin-cess Ghida Talal and the Spanish ambassador to Jor-

Also on Sunday two senior Omani envoys, Sheikh Shabib Ben Taymour and Sheikh Mustahil Ben Ahmad Al Maashani, arrived in Amman to congratulate the King on half of Sultan Oa

Oman. They were received upon arrival by Prince Nayef Ben Ali, the private chamberlain, and the Omani ambassador to Jordan. Sharif Zeid on Sunday

Queen Sofia and Prince attended the final rehearsals of a signing operetta to be staged on Nov. 27 as part of the Ministry of Education's celebrations of King Hussein's birthday. The rehearsals were staged

at Al Nuzha vocational school. Also attending the rehearsals were Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabeh, Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khalid Karaki. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai and senior government

ise pro Peres vows to continue Rabin's path for peace

acv force (Continued from page 1)

> yes to peace, no to vioence" demonstration.

Standing beneath a huge portrait of her late husband and a banner bearing the they have a words "Shalom Haver," themselves a "Goodbye Friend," she said: arted defenden "This is where he was happy, erdogs. Then this is where he met his

who lived not Addressing Mr. Rabin's rously but is bodyguards who have come ecurity. The in for sharp criticism for everything now Security failures on the night to take care of of his death on Nov. 4, she S Zyuganov – said: "Yitzhak always had confidence in you. He never n he sees as the believed anything could hapisis for a complete pen to bim. There is nothing

you have to reproach yourselves for." uld be an clea-She was dressed in the ack, temporari same simple blue suit which le. Even if the she wore to a ceremony earts and their lier in the day at Mr. Rabin's graveside in the Mount Herzi military cemetery in Jeru-

> "I want to believe that this catastrophe will not be in

world, into the better world you were hoping for, for you are the hope for peace.

"I told Shimon Peres: together you took the path of peace. You remained alone, we will all help you. I am calling on you, and I ask you to continue the path of

A lone trumpeter opened the ceremony with a plaintiff rendition of an old Israeli song about a warrior who went to war and did not

"Peres you are not walking alone," said stickers, plastered to the coats of the crowd, many of whom were carrying candles, and roses. "Enough to viotence," said another.

Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo addressed the crowd, which fell still as he called a minute's silence for Mr. Rabin's memory.

He officially renamed the

place Yitzhak Rabin Square, and hoped "for a better country where tolerance will reign

Young members of youth organisations addresssed the crowd one by one calling for tolerance.

In a message President Ezer Weizman called for Israelis to learn "from the lesson of this death that is 'No to violence and yes to

Mr. Peres unexpectedly attended the Tel Aviv memorial rally despite reports security chiefs had urged him to stay away. Live television showed Mr.

Peres greeting Leah Rabin at an enclosure for dignitaries at the square. Mayor Milo, who opened the ceremony, welcomed Mr. Peres.

At the Labour Party meeting, one of about a dozen people speakers an a stage covered in red carnations at a Tel Aviv cultural centre, Mr. Rabin's former aide Shimon Sheves criticised the killer and the hardline opposition headed by Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

the blood of Yitzhak cheap, and there was one who didn't stop those who cheapened his blood, and there were all those who were supportive but remained silent," Mr. Sheves said.

After the killing, Leah Rabin told reporters that Mr. Netanyahu — who spoke at right-wing rallies where hundreds called Mr. Rabin a traitor — shared the blame for the violent climate in which the assassination took

and I still haven't forgotten the awful words of incitement said about him and against him, the cries of 'traitor' and 'murderer' that were hurled at him. And even if he didn't show and express how much they hurt him, I know how much they hurt him," Mr. Sheves said.

"I am still looking back

All stood in silence when Leah Rabin entered the hall. Cabinet members and journalists alike wiped away

gor, from the history depart-

were fired at the murderer.

The Shin Bet official in charge of Rabin's protection

pended. **But Acting Prime Minister** Shimon Peres and his cabinet on Sunday expressed "total confidence" in the service,

Meanwhile, police uncovered a weapons store at the home of soldier Arik Schwartz, 21, who lives in the Bnei Brak ultra-orthodox suburb of Tel Aviv. His

dentist, is also being held. The soldier is suspecied of supplying grenades and explosives and a silencer to Yigal Amir, and his brother

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'Shin Bet was tipped off of assassination plan

ment at Tel Aviv University. Despite the warnings, "nothing was done, no agents were sent to infiltrate it (the university), there was no sealing off of the areas where the prime minister went, no shots

And he added Amir could only have got the murder weapon, a pistol, with a gun permit approved by the Shin

has already resigned and three others have been sus-

the prime minister's office

Asked about the accusations that the Shin Bet was warned in advance, Cabinet Secretary Shmuel Hollander told reporters: "The reports that appeared in the media were very far from the truth.

father Naphiali Schwartz, a

other members of a shadowy group had tried eight times to kill Mr. Rabin with the blessuspects. sing of extremist rabbis, investigators said. One past plan had been to shoot Mr.

Rabin at his home with a long-range rifle.
Police minister Moshe Shahal said they belonged to a Jewish extremist cell which had also planned to launch a speciacular attack on Arabs. But the Shin Bet has voiced

Lucien Buuchard, char-

ismatic leader of the separ-

atists' referendum cam-

paign, urged voters to

and your children" when

casting their balluts.

"think of your ancestors

Fernand Gascon, 65, re-

members catching the

nationalist fervour as a

youth in the 1940s and says

his enthusiusm for a

sovereign Quebec has

grown steadily ever since.

the first referendum," he

said, referring to the 1980

vote that the separatists lost

60 per cent to 40 per cent.

"I creid for two days after-wards. This time I didn't

cry. ... I think it will happen

for us, perhaps within 10

the suggestion that they

should be content as one of

10 co-equal Canadian pro-

vinces. In their minds, they

are one of two "founding

peoples" who formed the

Canadian federation in

1867, uniting Quebec's French Catholics with their

mostly British protestant

This quest for recognition

as a sovereign, equal part-

ner to Canada doesn't make

sense to Canadians else-

because the other 'founding

people' simply dis-

The Amir brothers and

"It is a hopeless quest,

neighbours.

French nationalists resent

"I worked very hard for

doubts on the conspiracy Meanwhile, five Israelis accused of threatening to kill Mr. Peres were also arrested Sunday by police at Rishon

Le Zion, state radio said. The five were traced after they made theatening phone calls to the police station from the factory where they

Police have identified the rabbis who gave the go-ahead for the murder of Mr. Rabin in a religious decree. Haaretz newspaer reported.

It said at least two rabbis gave their blessing to Dror Hadani, one of the detained

Hadani, who studied at a Jewish settlement near Hebron on the occupied West Bank, is suspected of having served as an intermediary between the rabbis and assassin Amir, Haaretz said.

It said the rabbis, who were not named, would soon be arrested although they were believed to be unaware that a real attack was about to take place.

Rabbi Yoel Bin Nun from another West Bank settlement threatened on Thursday to divulge the names of the rabbis in question unless they resigned. He was to meet chief rabbis on Monday to hand over a list.

Israel's chief rabbi, Israel Lau, said he would order a rabbinical inquiry and give the names to the authorities. Israeli security services are also investigating the funding

ican Jews, who have already collected \$100,000 for the assassin of Mr. Rabin, papers reported.

The income of extremist right-wing cells and funds transferred from the United States will be checked up, the daily Davar Rishon said.

It added that Israel may call on the U.S. security services to help the inquiry. "These funds must not be

allowed into Israel," said Mr. Orthodox Jews in New York have set up a collection

for Yigal Amir. Army radio and Davar Rishon said \$100,000 had already been collected. Organisers described Amir as a "great Jewish hero" and Mr. Rabin as "an extreme radical racist."

Attorney General Janet Reno said last week that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was prepared to

help the Israeli inquiry.

PROFESSIONALS NEEDED

An International Corporation is seeking candidates to staff a team to develop Prototype Business Plans for selected fresh produce

exports from Jordan. Two positions are available:

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internationally competitive and for time worked. All applicants should submit, in English, a one page cover letter with

The assignment will be for several months. Compensation will be

The Administrator P.O.Box 9145 Amman, Jordan

DEADLINE for receiving applications is Thursday, November 30, 1995

The members attending the Cairo meeting (listed by the Palestinian faction that they represent) are: Fatch — Yasser Arafat. Farouk Kaddoumi,

Mahmoud Abbas. nt home from The Palestine Liberation Front - Ali Ishak. The Palestine Popular Slruggle Front - Samir

> The Palestinian People's Party — Suleiman Najab. Independents — Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi, Bishop Elias Khouri, Abduilah Hourani, Jamal Al Sourani, Yasser Amr, Jawid Al Ghossein and Yasser Aped Rabbo (originally represented the Democratic front for the Liberation of Pales-

tine - DFLP). The three members who have resigned are Taysir Rhaled (DFLP), Abdul-Rahim Mallouh (the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and Shafiq Al

Hoot (independent).

Mahmoud Ismail of the Arab Liberation Front has not formally resigned but he has not been attending meeta committee member, was also attending, apparently in his capacity as acting speaker of the Palestine National

rally on Nov. 4.

adopted during this meeting because it needs much deeper

which concern only the procedures and modalities of the elections," he added, without providing details on the com-

third good you probably PLO leadership reviews course of peace after Rabin Nobel Prize (Continued from page 1) Salim Zaanoum who is sal announced.'

> Council. The meeting was the first since a Jewish militant shot dead Mr. Rabin at a Tel Aviv

> The session focussed on hammering out an electoral law for the first Palestinian self-rule elections, set for Jan. 20, making room for the Hamas fundamentalist group to participate, Mr. Nashashibi said.

"The law won't be finally

study and should be looked at by all the political blocks," he The Islamie Resistance Movement Hamas "has already sent its comments.

Mr. Nashashibi said Hamas would "most probably" take part in the elections by forming a political party, adding that "already

bers of this party's directing office have been

The law under examination ives the right to "any literate Palestinian over 18 years old to run as a candidate" for the autonomy council, Mr. Nashashibi said.

Before the session started Mr. Arafat said he would not be meeting with Hamas officials during this session "but there are contacts to hold a meeting in Cairo in the coming days" to reconcile between PLO and Hamas.

Mr. Arafat presided over the session which began in the morning on Sunday to continue until late into the

The PLO committee also

plans "to act on the Arab.

Islamic and international

level to oppose" the U.S.

Congress decision passed last month to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem by 1999, Mr. Nashashibi said. The PLO has backed the holding of an emergency meeting of Arab foreign

ministers at the Arab

League, "but this requires

more consultation," Mr.

The permanent representatives to the Arab League will meet Tuesday with league head Esmat Abdul Meguid to

work out a response to the U.S. decision, the pan-Arab organisation said on Sunday.

A five star hotel in Petra requires,

* Front office manager. Restaurant manager.

Oman reforms to help budget, attract capital

MUSCAT (AFP) — Economic reforms launched by Oman four years ago to offset weak oil prices will help tackle its budget deficit and attract invetment, the Omani chamber of commerce and industry said Sunday.

The reforms included privatisation of five public institutions and there are plans to self more government facilities and set up major projects in participation with the private sector, the chamber said in a study on Oman's reforms, the largest economic restructuring programme in the Gulf.

"Privatisation programmes in the sultanate will produce a lot of gains." said the study. carried by the official Omani news agency.

They include upgrading productivity and achieving extra revenue that will improve the balance of payments and cut the budget deficit, boost financial reserves and meet growing development needs instead of withdrawing from the overseas reserves or restoring to the more costly borrowing. the study added.

Oman, an independent oil producer, launched reforms after its economy was hurt by low crude prices due to its heavy dependence on oil exports.

The reforms include privatisations, freeing interest rates, improvement of investment laws and opening the stock market to foreigners. Apart from a key cement

"Such a policy will help expand the investors hase. activate dealing in the stock plant and four other public exchange, and boost national enterprises, the government the chamber said. 'It will also attract overseas plans to sell more facilities while it has already Omani funds, enable the priannounced the establishment vale sector to manage major projects and create new joh of major projects to he man-

aged by the private sector.

mical complex at a cost of

around \$800 million, new

electricity networks and ex-

pansion of existing plants.

and two sewage ventures in Muscat and Minah at a cost

of nearly \$715 million.

They include a petroche-

opportunities for the citizens.

Oman produces more than 800,000 barrels per day of erude, ferching nearly \$4 billion a year. But revenues are set to surge when an \$8 bil-lion gas liquefaction plant start producing six million

tonnes by the year 2000.

The decline in oil prices has slowed Oman's economy. turned a surplus in the hulance of payment into a deficit and created a persistent hudget shortfall, which was projected at around \$811 mil-

Iraq takes measures to end gas shortage

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has taken steps to tackle an acute shortage of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and to : reduce soaring prices, Bagh-dad newspapers reported

They said the price of gas cylinders for domestic use was now beyond the reach of low-income and most salaried

The government price for a gas cylinder is 60 dinars (about two U.S. cents), but by the time it reaches consumers

Sales herbesinstative

- Fluent in English & Arabic

Able to work with a team

Presentable with strong personality

Candidate must be:

- Young dynamic male

(written & spoken)

College educated

the price goes up to 750 dinars (about 30 cents), a sizeable chunk of a civil servant's salary.

The papers blamed low production and high trans-port costs for the LPG shortages and high prices.
Oil Minister Amir Moham-

mad Rasheed pledged in a newspaper interview Sunday that he was determined to end the shortage and help reduce prices.

Winter has just arrived in Baghdad, and long queues

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form outside gas cylinder distribution centres.

Mr. Rasheed said it cost more to transport gas than to produce it. He said it cost the government 60 dinars to fill a cylinder but 75 dinars to transport it to distribution

He said his ministry had increased the number of gas filling factories to 46 from 14, and these were producing half a million cylinders per

Iraqis use gas mainly for

Falcon Express, Inc.,

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Candidate must be:

(written & spoken)

... - Computer knowledge

College educated

- Young dynamic female

- Fluent in English & Arabic

· · · Able to work under pressure

cooking. Residents said there was high demand for gas cylinders in the three northern provinces now under Kurdish rebel control - one the factors behind the souring

Iraq also supplies Jordan with its gas and crude oil requirements. A fleet of

tankers ferries about 70,000 harrels of oil a day to Jordan.

Mr. Rasheed said his ministry suffered from a shortage in vehicles to transport gas inside the country. Lack spare parts had made idle vehicles out of a fleet of

One-fifth of tourists to Cyprus are from the Middle East & Gulf'

THE CYPRUS Tourism Organisation (CTO), in cooperation with Cyprus Airways and Sun Hotels Group held a one-week Cypriot folklore & food festival at Nile Hilton, which coincided with the 11th General Assembly of the World Tourism Organisation recently held in Cairo and attended by 1000 delegates from 121 countries and 350 journalists, many of whom enjoyed these traditional & lively Cyprus nights.

Mrs. Phryne Michael, the CTO director-general, said in a press

statement that Cyprus targets at increasing the quality of tourist from the neighbouring Arab states, who often come repeatedly with their families and love our modern touristic resorts, the sale & clean environment, the moderate climate round-the-year, the flowery swimming pools & beaches full of European tourists, as well as our landscapes, pine-clad mountains with snow for skiing in

Mrs. Michael said that over two million tourists have visited the island in 1994, and the figures for the first semester of 1995 showed an increase of 8.4 per cent. Of these visitors, 20 per cent come from the Middle East and the Gulf and find no difficulty in communication since English, Arabic & French are widely spoken by our friendly, hospitable people. The total annual number of tourists represents more than 3 times the population of Cyprus. however, they are comfortably accommodated in our 80,000 beds that exist in 185 botels, 190 hotel apartments and other licensed

"It is worthy of note that almost one-third of the total tourists come to us in winter, when they can ski on the mountains or take a

swim in the sunshine." she said.

Picture from left: Cypriot Minister of Commerce, Industry & Tourism Kyriakos Christophi: Secretary-General of the Greek National Tourist Organisation Apostolos Kossonas; CTO Publicity Agent for the Mideast & Gulf Edward Daniel; CTO Director-General Phryne Michael; CTO Director for the Arab States Cleanthis Naftis, and CTO Chairman of the Board of Directors Andreas Nicolau.



"This is your mother. To criticize the way I raised you, press 1. To criticize the way I treat your father, press 2...'

YES, WE'RE STANDING

THE EARTH WE'RE

LOOKING AT.

ON THE MOON AND THAT'S

EU, U.S. businessmen appeal to governments to lift trade barriers

SEVILLE, Spain (AFP) — More than 100 business leaders from the European Union (EU) and the United States Saturday appealed to their governments to step up effors to remove barriers to transatlantic trade.

The obstacles to business, caused by both excessive regulation and differences between EU and U.S. regulatory systems must be disman-tled," said a communique said a communique issued after a gathering here entitled "Transatlantic Business Dialogue."

U.S.. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said the outcome of the two-day meeting had surpassed predictions from "the most optimistic among us, and I count myself among that number.

Mr. Brown had belped organise the encounter, along with Sir Leon Brittan and Martin Bangemann, members of the EU's executive commission.

"We asked for a businessdriven agenda and now we have it," Mr. Brown de-clared. Recommendations adopted here will serve as a basis for an EU-U.S. summit in Madrid Dec. 3 attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton. European Commission Chairman Jacques Santer and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency.
Participants here called for

the speedy unification of technical specifications and certification requirements as a means of snimulating commercial exchanges. There should he in-

creased transparency and cooperation," they said, adding that the European Union and the United States "should take all possible measures to liberalise trade as much as possible."

The businessmen pressed for an end to local and regional restrictions on investment, urged governments to refrain from unilateral sano tions and agreed on the inportance of a global market Sir Brittan said delegates wanted world-wide trade to be "substantially" liberal to manicastrical of the disconnection of the disconnection when

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"The exact form of this still needs to be decided but the message from business is clear," he added.

Among those taking part in the conference were senior executives from Ericsson Alcatel Alsthom, Ford, Xerox, Bethlehem Steel, Sie. mens and Pechiney.

An executive committee from the Seville conference will meet in January to review the degree to which the recommendations have been taken into consideration by

OECD forecasters confirm downward growth revision

PARIS (AFP) - OECD forecasters confirmed here Tuesday a downward revision of growth projections for the 25 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for this year

Participants in the semiannual meeting of the OECD's Economic Policy Committee (EPC) said the OECD secretariat presented a new set of preliminary figures that might still have to be adjusted before publication of the OECD's year-end forecasts next month.

The revision took into account a near-stagnation in the Japanese economy, this year's sharp recession in Mexico following its financial

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form

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crisis, and a weaker-thanexpected performance in Europe.

The officials said the revised overall figures were in line with those indicated at the end of September by OECD Secretary-General lean-Claude Paye, who foreshadowed OECD growth of about 2.25 per cent this year and around 2.5 per cent in

The figure for 1995 was about 0.5 below last June's OECD forecast, while growth next year in the 25 industrial nations could be about one quarter-point less than initially expected.

However, participants did not appear overly worried by the slower pace of growth. Some of them noted that growth tates now appear

THAT SCHAMBLED WORD GAME

WHAT THE LITTLE DOCTOR DID ON

HALLOWEEN

Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as sug-gosted by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: JUDGE SPURN CODGER GUITAR

How he spent his loisure HE "DUG" GARDENS

more "synchronised" than last year. Moreover, they said into

tion appeared to be under control throughout-the OECD area and employment has heen picking up, although jobless figures remain too high in many European countries,

The panel, a forum for discussion and exchange of information among policymaking officials of the OECD countries, which meets twice annually to examine economic trends and prospects and discuss their implications for government policies, focused on structural policy issues at its opening session, including action that could help reduce unem-

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MON-DAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your mind is working a cleverly today and you know a what should be done to be come more successful in your is

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Try to gain whatever data you need confidentially today and then later tomght use it wisely to gain your finest aims for your success.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan early today how to gain your greatest ambitions and then go after them in a positive way. A compliment works wonders.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do as much public activities this morning as you can and gain added prestige, success and profit later this evening as well.

LEO:(July 22 to August 21) This is a good day today to take those chances you have in mind, but don't just start and then get cold feet for good results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be more con-cerned with the big issues today instead of concentrating on the details so much of any enterprise you are in-

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can today view your partners from different and better angle at this time and come to a fine understanding with them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be enthusias tic about accomplishing a good deal today and you can do just that and efficiently-also. Channel energies con-Structively.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Put dulid duties aside and go after what is important in the business world and gain your aims. Also, have a good time. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you use the right words at this time, you can easily get your family to do what you wish. Study your home for needed repairs.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day today to see as many persons as you can, whether for business or personal purposes and get good results-PISCES: (February 20 to-March 20) Think over what you can do to have more. success later this evening 50 that you need not worry about finances or monetary obligations.

Birthstone of November: Topal



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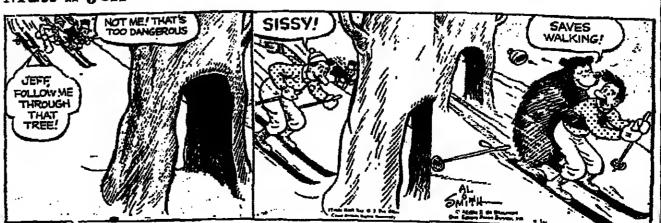
Andy Cap





Mutt'n'Jeff

Peanuts





ax reform concerns threaten investment in China

Peal (NNGHAI (AFP) — The massive tax reforms China has put foreign in-Parties and local officials on local against projects being andoned as too cosily,

isinessmen ording to businessmen.

In local prox. Today it's on the level of arrictions on the level of trictions on the level of the l trictions on intermediate trick very dangered govern and knows, but to China when sed government; numours it's very dangerm unilateral siding is going on," said Gilof a global mark in director for GEC Alorld-wide tantially." If all of the crit indeed a very hot
liber, pic," Mr. Van Kerckhove
id AFP.

be decided but ith increased talk at official from business vels over the past three added.

those taking the many tax exemp-Alsthom, Fo thichem Steel S.

Financia!

dations have be Foreign Exchange Market Summary

Inchronised U.S. onit declined as traders leaded the White House the heated debate between Congress and the White House

er, they said, parties failed to reach an agreement regarding increasing

ared to be up the debt ceiling before Nov. 15, the U.S. government will

throughout befault on its financial obligations, including a \$25 billion

a and employme interest payment. They, however, stressed that it is

n picking numbers that the two parties will fail to reach an agreement jobless figure, by that time.

nigh in many Es. The U.S. unit appreciated marginally against the mark itries.

Tuesday, while drifting lower against the yen and sterling.

nel, a forum Reports indicated that the dollar rose against the mark on news that the French prime minister cut nine of 42 cabinet

officials of t deficit.

Ountries, whe The dollar continued its depreciation against the yen

nomic trends sterling. The dollar's rise came oo the back of the mark's

and discuss to decline against other European currencies on profit taking is for governme operations. Meanwhile, the dollar shrugged-off news that ocused on suc the Mexican peso tumbled, as the Mexican government was ssues at its oper said to be considering imposing restrictions on capital

ing. Reports indicated that traders took long position on the yen and the Mexican peso. The Mexican peso rose

ST FOR 16 intervened beavily to the market to support its currency.

VEMBER U.M. The dollar rose against other major currencies at the end of the week, however, as traders reversed the preceding warch 21 to be day's activity and took their profits on the Mexican peso mind is well had the yen. Meanwhile, market participants focused on day and you's developments in the U.S. budget debate, where the U.S.

ld be done w: Administration was expected to veto a GOP bill, passed in

successful me the lower house, which allows an increase in the U.S. deb

(April 20 to k tions that are unacceptable to the Clinton's Administra-gain whatever to the U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4175 marks, outfidenoially to 100.90 yen and at \$1.5660 to sterling.

ov - 3 - 1995

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Central Hank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Nov. - 3 - 1995

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(May 21 to h Carrency

(November 6 - November 10, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit depreciated sharply against the yen last week, while appreciating modestly agains: sterling and stabilising against the mark. It ended the week 2.96 per

cent lower against the yen, 8.89 per cent higher against

The dollar depreciated marginally against the mark and the yen Monday, while stabilisting against sterling. The U.S. onit declined as traders feared the consequences of

over the budget deficit. Analysis indicated that if the two

posts in his new cabinet, and pledged to trim federal

The U.S. unit continued its depreciation against the mark and yen Thursday, while appreciating against sterl-

sharply after the Mexican central bank unexpectedly

ceiling until early December, but includes spending condi-

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low income taxes for foreigners in economic zones would be abolished in order to "level the playing field" for Chinese firms.

An announcement by the States Planning Commission last month said "foreigninvested and Chinese enterprises will have the same tax rates throughout the coun-

Said Mr. Van Kerekhove; "If the law is changed on taxes it will affect every-

Rebates on export value-added taxes (VAT) were cut to 14 per cent from 17 per cent earlier this year and will be cut again to around nine per cent from Jan. 1, 1996. The central government is also targetting a tax exemption on imported capital used as part of a toreign investor's equity investment — a major concern for both foreign and local firms involved in large capital investments.

Qiu Xianyan, deputy director of a joint water treatment

and conservation project between the Shanghai govern-ment and the World Bank, said costs on several projects wurth mure than \$550 million could rise sharply.

The advantage of the Wurld Bank loans was that

cheapest equipment from anywhere in the world," Mr. Oiu said. "If the central government taises the tax, the total investment of uur projects will increase 20 to 30 per

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A review of news from the Arabic press

Survey shows Jordanians against raising bread prices

Jordanian families from various governorates than JD 300 per month and that 61.5 per cent and with varying incomes, has shown that 65.5 of the families comprised seven or more per cent of the group think that current bread members. Of those who preferred keeping prices are suitable and that they disapprove of any increase in prices. According to the study per cent cited decreasing purchasing power a conducted by the Consumer Protection Socie- a reason, 80.4 per cent cited the large size of ty. 79.1 per cent of the sample buy more than the family and 80.1 per cent saw bread as a five kilogrammes of bread everyday and 7.7 basic food product and, as such, should be per cent buy less than four kilogrammes. It easily available to all people. Abdul Elah Al families with eight members buy more than owners of bakeries, indicated that more than lies, 79.1 per cent, comprising seven members consumed by people outside the target group Waste was mainly existent in 5.9 per cent of of wheat, says it pays about JD 85 million for the sample with a 5-member family and in 7.3 this product annually. Last year, the ministry per cent of the group having six members. sold 657,000 tonnes of wheat to the market. each day for the first category and one loaf for reaching \$210 a tonne from \$177 a tonne few that bread is a grace from God and should not pected to be much higher this year unless be thrown away, could be attributed to the bread prices are raised or subsidies rechannellow wastage of bread which is also considered as a basic food product for most of the world's families. Those families (34.5 per cent) who aid that the price of the Arabic bread was not 🕏 BESIDES THE subject of bread, the This result should be seen against the back- always, should never be floated (Al Dustour)

A SURVEY on a sample covering 5,000 ground that 41 per cent of the sample earn less was also found that 79.1 per cent of the Hamawi, head of the general association for five kilogrammes of bread daily. Most fami- 50 per cent of subsidised bread and wheat is or more were found not to waste bread, of beneficiaries. The country is estimated to Neither was there any waste in families who consume 600,000 tonnes of wheat per year had less than five members (7.7 per cent). and the Ministry of Supply, the sole importer The waste was two loaves (150 grammes each) But, with the international price for wheat he second. The society said religious belief months ago, Jordan's bill for wheat is exled to reach only the needy families (Al Ra'i).

suitable claimed that the quality of the loaf head of Consumer Protection Society says the does not match the price (85 fils per kilogram- prices of vegetables and fruits should not be me) it costs. Others said they cannot afford to allowed to float unchecked. He said the pay the current prices either because of the society favours floating prices under some large size of the family or because of high controls to safeguard the majority of the living costs in general. To improve the quality public who will be hurt as a result of the of bread, 75.5 per cent of the sample sugested buying better quality of wheat, 55.1 out that most families will not be able to per cent proposed using modern furnaces and tolerate the increase under the prevailing 2.9 per cent recommended employing skilled conditions marked by weak purchasing powlabourers. As to the subject of subsidy, 65.5 er. He called on the Ministry of Supply to per cent favoured keeping the current price. start floating produce prices gradually begin-21.3 per cent preferred raising the price by 15 ning with vegetables not considered as essenper kilogramme and 13.2 per cent backed tial. Prices of tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, raising the price by 25 fils per kilogramme, garlic and onions, which are high demand

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Giro d'Italia to start in Greece without big names

ROME (R) - The 1996 Giro d'Italia cycling race will start in Athens to mark the likith anniversary of the modern Olympic Games. organisers said on Saturday. But the 3.951-km

event will be missing some big names.

Oreanisers presented the itinerary of the 79th Giro, which begins on May 15 and includes four stages in Greece and traditional cross-border excursions into France and Switzerland for a total of 22 stages.

Only one stretch will have an individual time-trial - the 60-km, 19th stage on June 6th from Vicenza to Marostica in northern Italy - and there will be only one rest day to transfer riders to Italy on May 21.

But it the organisers pointed happily to the venture into Greece, which revived an ancient tradition when it staged the first modern Olympic Games in April 1896, they said nothing about some big absences.

Five-time Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain of Spain and Tour of Spain champion Laureni Jalabert of France will not ride in Italy's most important cycling event, their Banesio and Ince teams have said.

Last year's winner. Swiss Toni Rominger. has yet to say if he will ride in the Giro, which ends in June 9th - just 20 days before the start of what looks set to be an especially

gruelling Tour de France.

And Ifaly's Marco Pantani, seriously injured recently when he was hit by a truck. may not be ready by the start. Claudio Chiappucci is uncertain ahout riding, leaving veteran Gianni Bugno as Italy's best bet.

But riders at the presentation said they liked the Giro's early stages in a relatively flat part of central Greece and its final, arduous streich through the Alps.

"It is a very different Giro from past year." Eugeny Berzin, the Russian winner of the 1994 Giro, said. "The first part is very open and the last five days will be decisive." he rold

The 14th through 17th stages will be in the western Alps and the 20th and 21st stages in the Dolomites where a high point of 2.621 metres is reached at Coppi's Peak.

"The final stretch will be very, very intense." a bed-ridden Pantani told state televi-

Hill wins season-ending Australian Grand Prix

ADELAIDE (AFP) — Damon Hill scored a moraleboosting victory in the season-ending Australian
Formula One Grand Prix in
Adelaide on Sunday where
all his rivals fell by the

Hill, driving a Williams Renault, finished two laps ahead of the lesser-known Frenchman Olivier Panis. in a Ligier Mugen, and Italian Gianni Morbidelli, in a Foot-

work Hart.
The 81 lap race over 306 kilometres (190 miles) unfolded into a gruelling war of attrition with only eight of the 23 cars finishing.

Panis and Morbidelli were

able to grab some rare limelight after the likes of double world champion Michael Schumacher, Hill's teammate David Coulthard and Ferrari's Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger all dropped out. Hill's fourth win of the

year, and 13th overall from 51 starts, cemented his second place behind Schumacher in the final drivers' standings. Williams also dominated qualifying and the race before what was claimed by officials to be a world record Formula One crowd of 205,000.

Hill won the last Australian Grand Prix to be staged at Adelaide, before it moves to Melbourne from next March, in one hour 49 minutes 15.946 seconds.

"I was anticipaong a long. hard race, but everything just fell apart... Gerhard dropped out, Michael dropped out, David dropped out, (Johnny) Herbert as well... it was ridi-culous," Hill said.

"For a country famous for flies, they were dropping like them here end I was going around thinking this is 100 easy, and that's when something jumps out and bites

Hill's year started optimistically but turned sour, his last win was in Hungary in July and he was forced to retire three times in the five races leading up to Adelaide.

"This is a great morale-booster for the team we had hoped to have done this in the last three races, but at least we've managed to pull it off here and we showed that the Williams car is very competitive and probably the best car out there now." he said.

Hill started in pole position but teammate Coulthard hit the front until lap 22 when first Coulthard and then Schumacher came to grief.

Coulthard, who is switching to McLaren next season. held a comfortable lead, but his first pit stop on lap 20 proved calamitious.

The 24-year-old Scot zoomed in off the track, but was too quick into the bend and slammed into the pit wall damaging his front left wheel. "As I turned the corner with my foot on the brake the engine drove and pushed me forward, I locked up the front

wheels and drove into the wall," said Coulthard.
Schumaeher briefly took over, but after the German re-fuelled he had a wheel-banging collision with Alesi at the end of the main straight. The Frenchman's Ferrari

central heating.



World champion Michael Schumacher of Germany receives cheers from spectators during a drivers' parade at the Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Adelaide (AFP

suffered front wing damage last month. and in the flying debris. Schumacher's Benetton was forced to make a two stops in the pits before a rear suspension problem ended bis hopes of a record 10th win in a said Schumacher. season. He equalled Nigel Mansell's standard et Suzuka

"In my view, he (Alesi)
was just frustrated. I had passed him, but he tried to pass me back on the outside where there was no way." "As he realised this, he

pulled back and put his front

Michael Schumacher

Michael Schumacher Michael Schumacher

Jean Alesi Michael Schumacher

Johnny Herbert Michael Schumacher

Damon Hill Michael Schumacher

Michael Schumacher

Johnny Herbert

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Damon Hill

Damon Hill

Winners of 1995 Formula Grand Prix One

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April 30	San Marino
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uly 16	Britain
uly 30	Germany
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Michael Sehumacher Michael Schumacher wheel in the front of my rear wheel. I had nowhere to go but over his utyre and that was it. I damaged the tyre and my suspension. It was the

end of my race. Alesi said: "After the race I talked with Michael. We both said our piece calmly. Neither of us changed our

victory here took up the pursuit from the 31st lap, but he pulled out four laps later with smoke billowing from his Ferrari enginc.

is lard back from a same beat Ukraine with the same of Saturday night. Schumacher's teammate. Johny Herbert, briefly enter. tained hopes of a British one. two behind Hill, before he came to grief on lap 71 with

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of his Benetton. It was left to Panis to secure his beset finish but not finished comfor group 4
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Antonio Benarri without drama as his Ligier's engine began smoking with four laps left. He went on with smoke pouring over the track, but was able to keep going long enough to secure the six points as runner-up. Morbidelli, with just 4½ points from 59 previous GPs. also imped home into third

"The problem was that there was a terrible smell in my cabin because it was leak-ing oil, and for the last stages of the race I was saying "what is this smell? Come on, come one another lap"... that was my problem." said the popuftalian.

> 'Hakkinen soon out of intensive care'

The condition of Formula One driver Mika Hakkinen continued to improve here Sunday efter a horrifyiog accident in the Australian Grand Prix qualifying round Friday.

Hakkinen was unconscious for 24 hours after suffering head injuries when his McLaren Mercedes, travelling at around 250 kmh (155mph), spun out of control and hurtled into a wall,

The medical bulletin from Royal Adelaide Hospital early Sunday said the 27-yearold Finn had significantly im-proved and he had slept coin-

The hospital said Hak-kinen would remain in intensive care for another 24 hours, and would subsequently need further hospital treatment.

On Saturday a hospital statement said Hakkinen had sat up in bed and spoken with

The racing world feared the worst on Friday when doctors needed 15 minutes to extricate him from the cockpit of his McLaren car. Press photographs showed him with blood around his mouth and nose. McLaren team boss Ron

Dennis has blamed a punc tured left-hand rear trye for Hakkinen's accident.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A Jordanian organisation announces vacancies for the

following posts: . Information Centre Manager.

Applicants should have the following qualifications: 1. University degree in computer science or MIS

2. Practical experience in the same field is preferable. Excellent command of English / written , reading and

Readiness to laarn and ability to network with other related institutions.

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Applicants should have the following qualifications: 1. University degree in aithar Business Administration economics or Management

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Excellent command of English . Readiness to learn and ability to network with other related institutions.

interested applicants send their updated CV's to the ollowing address:

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JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

ADVERTISEMENT FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JS/01/95 FOR 400KV OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development for financing the 400kv electrical interconnection project with the Syrian Network. Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this loan for financing of the Tender No. JS/01/95 for the

supply and installation of the following 400kv Overhead Transmission Lines: 1- The 400kv single circuit overhead transmission line of a total length of about 60km from the Syrian border to

the location of Amman North Substation. 2- The 400kv Doubla circuif overhead transmission line of a total length of about 40km from the location of Amman North S/SN to the location of Amman South

The Tender includes the following options: 1. Supply of Steel Towers: Design, manufacture, testing

and delivery of the steel towers for the two mentioned lines. The design and manulacturing drawings of the double circuit towers will be provided to the successful

2- Conductors and Earthwires: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of the phase conductors and the 3- Optical Fibre Ground Wires (OPGW): Design,

manufacture, testing and delivery of the optical fibre ground wires. 4- Insulators and Fittings: Design, manufacture, testing and delivery of insulator strings and littings for the

phase conductors and stranded steel earthwires. 5- Erection: Receiving of all necessary material for the 400kv transmission lines, transport and erection of the complete lines including the towars, insulator strings, conductors, earthwires, OPGW and littings.

6- Turnkey: Design, manulacture, testing, delivery, insurance and erection of all needed 400kv transmission lines materials.

Tenderers who are interested to participate in any of the tender options can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Department in Jordan Electricity Authority main offices located between the 6th and the 7th circles- Jabal Amman starting from Saturday 11/11/95 onwards against a nonrefundable amount of USD 1000 or equivalent in Jordan Dinars in favour of Jordan Electricity Authority for each set of tender documents and submission of a purchasa ordar accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment. The purchase order should clearly include the bidder's name, his local agent and address, felex, fax and

telephone number. Bids ara to be submitted to the Secretary of Tendering Committee at the above address not later than 12:00 noon Amman time on Saturday 10/2/96 accompanied wifh a bid bond in the amount given in the tender

Director General Eng. M.S. Arafeh

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JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT

FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JSO2/95 FOR 400KV SWITCHGEAR,

REACTORS AND ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT FOR AMMAN NORTH SUBSTATION ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA

Jordan Electricity Authority declares that they have secured a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and. Social Development for financing the 400kv electrical interconnection project with the Syrian Network. Jordan Electricity Authority intends to use part of this loan tor linancing of the Tender No. JS02/95 which

includes design, manufacture, dalivery, installation, testing, commissioning and guarantee of 400kv conventional outdoor switchgear as Option 1 or 400kv SF6 metalclad switchgear as Option 2 and control, protection and ancillary equipment complete with civil works for Amman North 400kv Substation. Tenderers who are interested to participate in this

tender can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Department in Jordan Efectricity Authority main offices located between the 6th and the 7th circles- Jabal Amman starting from Saturday 11/11/1995 onwards against a nonrefundable amount of USD 1000 or equivalent in Jordan Dinars in layour of Jordan Electricity Authority for each set of tender documents and submission of a purchase order accompanied by a copy of the receipt for payment.

The purchase order should clearly include the tenderer's name, his local agent and address, telax, fax and telephone number.

In case the tenderer requires the tender documents to be sent to him by mail, the express airmail cost will be

Bids are to be submitted to the Secretary of Tendering Committee at the above addrass not later than 12:00 noon Amman time on Saturday 10/2/1996 accompanied with a tender bond in the amount given in the tender documents.

Director General Eng. M.S. Arafeh

CINEMA .

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Prize	Winning	Prize	Winning	Prize	Winning
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1	30168	20	16921	39	33620
2	20802	21	27551	40	6493
3	1277	22	6345	41	232
4	30898	23	6129	42	29695
5	9400	24	30266	43	2467
6	29351	25	9569	44	13444
7	33888	26	4132	45	9940
ខែ	1479	27	13567	46	6974
9	10389	28	23761	47	4781
10	20223	29	17488	48	411
11	8081	30	33475	49	420
12	900	31	2413	50	12850
13	26514	32	32042	51	301
14	25506	33	13008	52	30402
15	1441	34	13421	53	30214
16	13790	3 5	32145	54	8586
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18	29103	37	4491	56	3036
19	6261	38	19786	57	23667
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Holders of winning tickets are kindly requested to call on Um Al Hussein Orphanage, North Marka, near the Public Transport Corporation's workshops, Tel.: 892680

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The bidding:
FEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
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Opening lead: King of a. Here's another example of the type of hand that is a bane to the average player, yet the expert will simost always get right automatically. Again, it involves no speciacular pyrotechnics; just sound technique.

dar pyrotechnics; just sound tech-nique.

The auction requires some com-ment. When partner responds to one dub with one spade, the odds greatly favor partner having a five-card suit. This is especially trus here, where East is surely short in hearts. Therefore, we would have

bid four spadss with the West cards, a contract that requires accu-rate defense to defeat. (Try it your-self.) Defending against four hearts. West lad the king of clubs then shifted to a low spade. Dummy's access taken and trumps were drawn in three rounds. Declarer then led

was taken and trumps were drawn in three rounds. Declarer then led the remaining club. West grabbed the see and returned a spade, and declarer eventually had to lead a diamond from Hand — down one. Using one of dummy's entries to lead a diamond for Hand — down one. Using one of dummy's entries to lead a diamond to the king would have been as futile.

A card-play whiz would make the hend in no time flet. West would not have shifted to a spade with four cards in that suit, since the defender could infer that declarer was almost certainly would in the suit. Therefore, after winning the ace of spades at trick two, declarer would ruff a spade, return to the table with the queen of hearts and ruff another spade. Now trumps would be drawn, after which declarer would exit with a club.

On winning the club trick, West would be faced with a choice of lowing plays. Brasking dismonds would be seen worse, permitting declarer to discard both dismonds on the high clubs.

TEL: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

& Lora Leeni....in

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA

TEL: 699238 PLAZA

Denzel Washington Jene Hackman In

CONCORD CONCORD "1" . Sylvester Stallone..in

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2"

MUSA HIJAZIN Sumaa* **ASSASSINS** ín

Hi Citizen datly at 8:30 p.m.

In view of the travel

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Delan Walsh

CRIMSON TIDE

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Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqieh

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of the actors abroad the theatre is closed

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BARI (AFP) — Italy sormed back from a goal down to beat Ukraine 3-1 here on Saturday night, virtually guaranteeing themselves a place in next year's European Championships in England.

Two goals in five minutes at the start of the second-half killed off the Ukrainians as Italy, who had made a poor start, finally got into gear. They finished comfortable winners of the Group 4 tie. The first three goals all

arose from defensive errors. Antonio Benarrivo, the Parma right-back, completely missed his kick in the 18th minute, allowing the ball to run on to the left wing and Gennady Orbu, who passed inside to Andrei Polunin. Polunin's drive from eight

defender Ciro Ferrara as he tried to block. Three minutes later, Benarrivo made amends by chasing a long through-ball

from Ferrara into the Ukrai-

metres was deflected in off

nian penalty area. Ukrainian goalkeeper Oleg Suslov half-blocked the shot and as the ball bobbled towards the goal-line, Ukrainian substitute Alexsandr Evtushok ran back but completely missed the ball, leavg Fabrizio Ravanelli a sım-

The killer blows came soon after the break.

Massimo Crippa, a secondhalf substitute for Dino Baggio, sent a low cross into the box just three minutes after the re-start. Viktor Skripnik tried to clear but deceived bis own keeper and Juventus hero Ravanelli was there on the goal line to guide the bail

Five minutes later, AC Milan defender Paolo Maldini joined in the attack and scored the goal of the game - chipping the ball over a defender and then volleying . past the keeper from just

mide the penalty area. Arlan teammate Marco mone, who came on for nanfranco Zola up front, ent close twice as the Itaans tightened the screw.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jansher takes record 7th title

NICOSIA (R) - Jansher Khan of Pakistan won a record seventh World Open Squash title on Saturday, heating British challenger Del Hatris 15-10, 17-14, 16-17, 15-8, But the Englishman gave Jansher his toughest final in seven years, saving three match points to win the third game. It took the world champion a gruelling 101 minutes to win. The 26-year-old has now assured his place in the history books by passing compatriot Jahangir Khan's six witrld open titles. "I felt a lot of pressure," he told reporters after the match, "I am 26 and getting older by the day, If I lost now, it would be difficult to keep the momentum."

Collymore threatens to quit

LONDON (R) - Striker Stan Collymore, Britain's most expensive player, has threatened to quit soccer, saying his £8.5 million (\$13.4 million) transfer to Liverpool has turned into a nightmare. The 24-year-old, who left Nottingham Forest in the off-season, has made little impact at Anfield where he cannot hold down a regular first teant place. Collymore, who has admitted he has found it difficult adjusting to Liverpool's slick passing style, is quoted in the British Sunday Mirror tabloid as saying he is prepared to turn his back on football.

Bure out for NHL season

VANCOUVER (AFP) -- Russia's Pavel Bure, who scored 60 goals three season agn for the National Hockey League's Vancouver Canucks, will miss the remainder of this season with a torn right knee ligament. Bure was checked from behind into the boards by Steve Smith in a 5-2 loss to the Chicago Blackhawks on Thursday. Bure was sliding into the boards hehind the net as he was hit hy Smith. Pat Quinn, the Canucks general manager, said under no circumstances will Bure be back this season, not even for the playoffs, because of the torn anterior eruciate ligament. "Luckily he suffered no other damage to his knee," team doctor Ross Davidson said. Bure and compatriot Alexnader Mogilny were expected to form one of this season's most high-scoring NHL duos.

Squash fights for Olympic inclusion

NICOSIA (AFPI - Squash was still fighting to become an Olympic sport by the year 2000, the president of the World Squash Federation (WSF) said on Sunday, Malaysia's Tunku Imran, whose influence at the head of the WSF helped squash into the Commonwealth Gantes in his home country in 1998, is determined it should also be included in the Sydney Olympics. Beach vulleyball and softhall are provisional sports for the 1996 Atlanta Games, and triathlon and taikwondo have the same status in the 2000 Games, Imran is hopeful that squash, with 105 member nations and 15 million players, will also join the Olympic movement at the turn of the century. "We are still trying hard to get Olympic recognition for squash," Imran said.

Celtic win 2-1

GLASGOW (R) - Tall Dutch striker Pierre Van Hooydonk scored twice as Celtic beat Partick Thistle 2-1 to edge two points nearer leaders Rangers, held 1-1 at home by Aberdeen, in the Scottish Premier Division on Saturday. Rangers have 32 points and Celtic 28 after 13 matches. Third-placed Hibernian fell hehind with a 2-0 defeat at Falkirk and are on 22 points, two above Aberdeen, Russian Oleg Salenko's 40th-minute equaliser extended Rangers' unbeaten league run to nine games in a keenly contested match at Ibrox. Scotland midfielder Eoin Jess put Aberdeen in front in the 28th minute and although Rangers pulled level they were denied a victory to avenge their League Cup semifinal defeat by the same rivals last month.

The second secon

NBA punishes 16 for brawl

NEW YORK (Agencies) -Indiana forward Dale Dayis and Sacramento forward Michael Smith received the ntrist serious punishments among to players fined or suspended by the National Basketball Association (NBA) here Saturday.

The players were involved in a marjor fight during Friday's game at Indianapolis. The Kings heat the host Pacers 119-95, improving to a

franchise-hest 5-0 start. Davis and Smith were each suspended for two games and fined \$2ttJXXtt for their part in the brawl, which took place in the third quarter.

The Pacers were without coach Larry Brnwn, whose angry profest of a referee's call at New York resulted in a one-game suspension he was

Replacements for striking regular NBA referees have now contributed to nine player suspensions and times worth a cumbined \$155,000 in'the first eight days of the NBA season.

Kings' centre Duane Causwell was suspended one game without pay and fined \$7,500 for serving other than as a peacemaker. There were 13 other play-

ers fined \$2,500 each for leav-

ing the bench area, forcing

the league to invoke a rare

rule regarding the minimum

number of players that must dress for a game. Smith, Causwell, guard Tyus Edney and forward Byron Houston were forced out of Sacramento's game Saturday at New Jersey: Smith, centre Olden Polynice, guard Sarunas Marciulionis and forward Lionel Simmons will miss Tuesday's game against the Los Angeles

out Thursday at Portland. Magic nip Heat on last-second

Lakers, Walt Williams will be

Penny Hardaway's tough layup with 1.2 seconds left in the game lifted the Orlando Magre to a 94-93 victory over the Miami Heat on Saturday.

Hardaway, who scored 34 points, worked off a pick set by Horace Grant and went into the lane, double-

clutching over Miami centre Alanzo Mourning.

"Hardaway made the play," Miami coach Pat Riley said. 'He makes one incredihle shot. He double-pumped it, had Mourning in his face. and made one hell of a shot."

Dennis Scott scored 12 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter as Orlando made up nine-point deficit and extended its home winning streak against Eastern Conference opponents to 31. They are 46-2 overall at home during that span.

"When we're in this building, we have the fans cheering as loud as they can, we think we can do anything," Hardaway said, "When we were down, the crowd gave us energy and we went on a 10-0 run that really helped us

Mourning scored 28 points

and Billy Owens added 18 points and 13 rebounds for Miami, which lost its first game of the season after starting a franchise-best 3-0. In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 15 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter to lift the Bulls past the Portland Trail Blazers 110-106 and keep them the NBA's only unbeaten team.

The Bulls' 5-0 start is the best in franchise history. Jordan also had seven aseists. Scottie Pippen added 21 points, nine rebounds and six assists for Chicago, which wan its second consecurive

gime without forward Dennis Rodman, who is out with a strained left calf muscle. Cliff Robinson scored a career-high 39 points and Rod Strickland added 29 for Portland.

In Dallas, Andrew Lang and Ken Norman scored 21 points apiece and the Atlanta Hawks used an 18-2 fourthquarter run to hand the Mavericks their first loss of the season, 113-100.

Atlanta trailed 85-76 after three quariers before outscoring the Mavericks 37-15 in the fourth quarter. Stacey Augmon added 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter for the Hawks, who have won three straight games, all on the road. Jim Jackson scored 30



points and Jamal Mashburn added 27 for Dallas, which Instrafter a franchise-best 4-0

At New Jersey, Jayson Williams scored all 17 of his points in the second half and the nets held the shorthanded Sacramento Kings scoreless for the final 3:49 to win 8b-84.

Kevin Edwards scored 24 points and Williams added 14 rebounds for New Jersey.

The Kings 15-1) suffered their first loss of the season. Guard Tyus Edney, centre Duane Causwell and forwards Michael Smith and Byron Houston were suspended for their part in a brawl against Indiana on Fri-

Mitch Richmond scoted 17 points and Olden Polynice added 16 for the Kings. In Charlotte, Larry John-

Scottie Pippen (left) of the Chicago Bulls battles for a loose ball (AFP photo) son scored 12 of his 34 points Olajuwon, Sam Cassell

in overtime and Glen Rice added 31 points as the Hornets defeated the Toronto Raptors 123-117. Johnson scored the first

four points of overtime for a 109-105 lead as the Hornets never trailed in the extra period. Willie Anderson had 23

points and nine rebounds and Murray added 22 points for expansion Toronto (1-5) which lost its fifth straight

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored his 20,000th career point as the Rockets routed the Minnesota Timberwolves 119-97.

Olajuwon's basket with 3:30 left in the first period was his 20,001st career point. making him the 21st player in NBA history to reach the plateau.

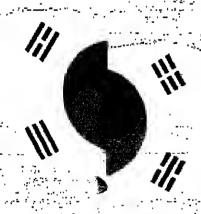
and Robert Horry all scored 21 points for Houston, which improved to 4-1. Sam Mitchell scored 13 points for the Timberwolves, who dropped

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 24 points as the Supersonics routed the Vancouver Grizzlies 117-81.

Hersey Hawkins scored 22 points for Seattle (4-2). Benoit Benjamin scored 14 points for Vancouver, which dropped its fourth straight after opening the season with

The first half of the game was played without a shot clock as the public address announcer had to count down the seconds for every possession due to malfunctioning in Seattle's key arena, which is in its first year of use.

요르단에 오신 것을 환영합니다 Welcome to Jordan



THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. AHMED ISSA MURAD

WELCOMES

ALL THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING TO BE HELD IN AMMAN 14 & 15 NOVEMBER 1995



سامسوناج

Algerians

throng

to vote

PARIS (Agencies)

Thousands of expatriate

Algerians thronged around

their country's consulates in

France on Sunday to vnte in

Algeria's presidential elec-

tion after dozens were in-

jured during chaotic scenes

when voting began on Satur-

Police set up crash barriers

and emergency medical sta-

tions as voting began at 7 a.m. (0600 GMT) on Sunday.

an hour earlier than the pre-

vious day, to try to avoid

Witnesses said about 4,000

people massed outside the

consulate in the Riviera city

of Nice when voting resumed

there after especially wild

scenes on Saturday when 25

people were injured. 10

serinusly enough to be taken

At least 60 people were

hurt in similar scenes of panic

in Lyon while others were hurt in Lille and Marseille where about 8,000 people

pressed around the consulate

Paris police, apparently better prepared than their

colleagues outside the capit-

al. reported no incidents in

the capital, where orderly queues hundreds of metres

lone formed up outside the

Paris police had been espe-cially alert for possible fun-

damentalist attacks, harring

all cars from parking any-

where near the voters.

A wave of bomb attacks.

blamed on Algerian mili-

tants, have killed seven peo-

ple and wounded 170 others

In Algeria itself seven peo-

voting stations.

ŝince July.

when its gates opened.

Saturday's crush.

to hospital.

Rebel Serbs sign deal to end E. Slavonia impasse

ERDUT. Croatia (AFP) — In a major breakthrough for the Balkan peace process. Croatian officials and rebel Serbs on Sunday signed an agreement restoring Croatian control over the last area of rebel-held land, four years after it was seized.

Rebel Serb negotiator Milan Milanovic signed the framework agreement on the return of the breakaway region of Eastern Slavonia after talks with U.S. Ambassador Peter Galbraith and U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg in Erdut, the Serb stronghold in the disputed region. Mr. Galbraith welcomed the agreement as "historic."

I think this is a historic siening. For the first time in this conflict, an issue has heen resolved peacefully by

Mr. Stoltenberg said "li's the beginning of the end of

In Zaereh, chief Croatian negotiator Hrvoje Sarinic signed the agreement at a ceremony witnessed by re-

Informed sources said Croatian President Franjo Tudjman might return to Zagreb Monday from the U.S.-brokered Balkan peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, fol-

lowing the breakthrough. Mr. Tudjman has made the return of Eastern Slavonia his key ohjective.

The return of the territory completes a lighting transformation of the country which began in May when Croatian troops re-took from

KHARTOUM (R) - Five

prominent politicians from

southern Sudan, including

former Vice-President Abel

Alter, have told President

Omar Hassan Al Bashir that

they favour self-

determination for the south.

Reuters on Sunday, the

politicians said southern

choose independence.

Sudan had the right even to

The Islamist-dominated

government in Khartoum,

which is at war with the rebel

Sudan People's Liberation

Army (SPLA) in the south,

determination for the south-

erners, who are mainly

ile, including Muslim north-

erners. also favour self-

determination for the south

but prominent southerners in

Khartoum have been wary of

General Bashir's govern-

ment. by making Sudan what

it called a theocratic Islamic

state, had excluded south-

erners politically and consti-

Arabs draw up plan to fight 'terrorism'

CAIRO (AFP) - Arah justice ministers drew up a draft

plan for combatting militant violence by setting up extradi-

tion mechanisms between their countries. Egyptian Justice

Minister Farouk Seif Al Nasr said Sunday. The draft

agreement "underlines the desire of the parties for close

cooperation against terrorism, which threatens security and

stability in Arab countries," Mr. Nasr told the press. The

executive committee of the Arab League Council of Justice

ministers in Cairo drew up the draft in coordination with

the council of interior ministers, he said. It "establishes the

bases for cooperation against terrorism especially (concern-

ing) the exchange of information and evidence and the

mechanisms for extraditing prisoners. he said. The draft

must be vetted by the full council of justice ministers, to

meet on Tuesday before being put before the next full league session in March.

Former Lebanon hostage Mann dies

NICOSIA (R) — Former Lebanon hostage and British World War II Hero Jack Mann died on Sunday of heart and lung failure after a long illness, a doctor said at his home in

Cyprus. Mann, 81, was kidnapped in 1989 by militants in

Beirut and was the oldest of a group of Western hostages.

He was released in 1991 after more than two years of

solitary confinement. The doctor said medical staff were

the only people present when Mann died at his home in a

suburb of Nicosia early on Sunday. Mann's wife Sunnie,

Kurdish pro-Saddam party to be set up

BAGHDAD (AFP) - A new pro-Saddam Kurdish party

is to be set up in Iraq, the second political group to be

formed since the authorities announced last month a policy

of "openness," an official newspaper reported Sunday. The

new party "will act for the unity of the Arab-Kurdish

struggle and socialism." founding member Salaheddine

Jalal Hakeem wrote in an article published by Al

J. houriya. Mr. Hakim blasted the Kurdish opposition

r. hes controlling northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad

sine: 1991, saying "they imposed themselves on the Kurdish people and thrive on attacks" against them. On

Tuesday, a former member of the banned Iraqi Communist

Party announced the formation of a Marxist party. Both

parties will be allies of President Saddam Hussein's Baath

Party which seized power in 1968, their founders said.

President Saddam announced a policy of openness after his

victory in the Oct. 15 referendum in which he was the only

who he met in 1942, died in 1992.

The letter said Lieutenant-

Sudanese opponents in ex-

Christian or animist.

stating their views.

In a letter obtained by

ern Slavonia and continued in August when they re-took

The accord signed Sunday provides for a 12-month transition period before the restoration of full Croatian administration and the possibility of extending this period for one year "at the request of one of the parties. according to an unofficial Serbian language translation

The 14-point agreement. under which the Serbs dropped their demands for a re-ferendum on the future of the region, if implemented, will avert a Croatian offensive to return the area to Zagreb's

The two sides asked the U.N. Security Council to decide to send international forces who, during the transitional period, will maintain the peace and security of the territory," according to the Serb translation.

A minimum of 30 days before the transitional period ends. a transitional authority will organise elections for all the local authorities." the

Pressure had grown on the Serbs in recent days to agree a deal after Croatia moved a reported 1.600 additional troops up to the region at the end of last week, threatening a quick military takeover by their nearly 16,000 frontline troops if an agreement was

Eastern Slavonia, an area of 2.500 square kilometres of der with Serbia, was seized by Serb rebels in 1991 with the then backing of Belgrade.

One of its main towns. Vukovar, was destroyed by heavy bombing in a merciless four-month stege and 100,000 Croatians were forced to flee.

were killed in the six-month Serbo-Croat war, most of the them in Eastern Slavonia. The Serbs as late as last Tuesday rejected the latest of a series of draft deals proposed by Mr. Galbraith and

Some 10,000 Croatians

Mr. Stoltenberg. The Serbs earlier demanded a referendum on the future of the area and a three-year "transition period" of U.N. administration before it would be re-

turned to Croatian control. The Croatians rejected the Serb demand and wanted the transition period kept to one

Serbia had also given clear public signs in recent weeks that it would not make a significant military response Croatia were to attack Eastern Slavonia.

"U.N. officials earlier this month put the number of Serbs and minority Hungarians in Eastern Slavonia at 170,000. 152,000 of them Serbs, many of whom fled to the area earlier this year from other previously Serb-held territory retaken by Croatia in May and August.

Croatia does not recognise the right of residence of many of the Serbs in Eastern Slavo-

territories. Mr. Arafat received the first voter's card, bearing the number one, from Local Government Minister Saeb Erakat after registering at his home in Gaza City. He filled in and signed the

registration forms witnessed by officials from the Palestinian central electoral com-

one) (Petra wirephoto)

GAZÁ STRIP (AFP) -

Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat became the

first Palestinian to register for

historic elections as officials

began on Sunday to draw up

an electoral roll across the

and a half Palestinians will take part in these first elec-Dr. Erakat said. Elections are due to be held in January for an 82member self-rule council and

to elect the president of an

part in the poll.

direct reported attack on Iran by a Bahraini senior official. coincided with a meeting of

opened in Bahrain on Saturtion to bolster security. Interior ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) comprising Bahrain, Saudi Arabia. Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates discussed ways of countering

"We are ready for coexistence and friendship, we hope that the Iranian leadership will not repeat the errors of Saddam Hussein," the Iraqi president whose army occupied Kuwait from August 1990 to February 1991, he

violent acts, terrorism and

"Iranian officials are not showing any flexibility hut their threat has heen neutralised thanks to our regional and international agree-

added. Bahrain's Sunnt-led authorities have indirectly accused Shiite Muslim Iran of Gulf Arab ministers which being involved in violent proarchipelago for months after the arrest last December of a Shiite cleric who had called

> ment suspended in 1975. The riots left at least 12 people dead before they ended in April. Bahrain agreed last month to allow U.S. warplanes on

for the restoration of parlia-

its territory until the end of the year to help protect Gulf Arab states against any threats in the absence of a U.S. aircraft currier in the region. Sheikh Khalifa confirmed

Bahrain was providing facilities for Washington but denied there were U.S. military bases on the island. He said the United States

had facilities near and in the

main port of Mina Sulman and "these facilities are meeting in Bahrain.

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police shot dead on Sunday a militant who trained attackers in the failed assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia last

Police tracked Abdul Karim Abu Al Fadi Faris. 31. to a hideout in the mountains

hideout in a dawn raid. as shootout began and Faris was killed, police said,

gled in from Sudan.

The raid came a day after police uncovered in Aswan province further south a huge cache of weapons they said were hrought into country from Sudan for militants.

While in Sudan, Faris participated in training the squad of gunmen who ambushed Addis Ababa on June 26 in an assassination aftempt from which the Egyptian president

Egypt accuses Khartoum

pledged to jointly fight extremism. terrorism and drug smuggling and to work to increase coordination hetween their security author-

"Because these crimes are alien to the societies of council states ... the ministers renewed pledges to fight them by all means." GCC interior ministers said in a statement at the end of the

extremist group Gamaa Al Islamiyah, and refusing to hand over three participants.

mine, Mustapha Hamza. Police said it was Hamza who sent Faris to Egypt.

hectares of sugarcane along-the railway track on which militants shot at two passenger trains last week, wilnesses said.

kilometres, they said.

Police say militants have used the sugarcane for cover when they open fire at the trains as part of their campaign against the tourist industry.

a Dutch and a French tourist were wounded in the attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, the first on trains

for their own safety.

kilometres south of Cairo.

Jilted woman injects lover with HIV blood

LONDON (AP) - A jilted Ugandan woman was convicted Friday of injecting her former boyfriend with her HIV-infected blood. The judge warned Rhena Ndagga. 25, that despite her condition she will be jailed when senteoce is passed after submission of health reports. In May, Ms. Ndagga twice injected her Ugandan lover. David Kabagwire, who had jilted her, the prosecution said The government had turned down her application for political asylum. "There can be nobody in this court who can fail to have sympathy for you, your condition and your ultimate future," said Judge Elizabeth Steel. "Equally there is nobody in this court who can fail to be horrified by what you did." Prosecutor Garrett Byrne told the jury at the Old Bailey criminal court that Ms. Ndagga and Mr. Kabagwire. 28. became

said the prosecutor. They

spent that night together

and Mr. Kabagwire felt a.

sudden sharp prick in his

shoulder. The next day at

her home he bent down to

pick up a briefcase, felt a

stab in the buttock and saw

a needle and syringe oo the

carpet. He called the

police. Mr. Kabagwire has

since again tested negative

so far. but faces more lests.

"I did not know what to do,

I feel upset." he told the jury. Ms. Ndagga, who

pleaded innocent, was con-

victed of causing grievous

Armageddon has.

been delayed --

Jehovah's

Witnesses

LONDON (R) - Arma-

geddon has been delayed

and the end of the world is

no longer nigh, say

Charles Russell, founder of

the movement that now

boasts five million mem-

bers, first forecast the

world would end in 1914.

Two more "false alarms"

occurred in 1925 and 1975

and now the movement has

decided not to give any

more exact forecasts on

judgement day when it

believes nnly its followers

will be saved. Semon

church figures, cited in its

official Watchtower maga-

zine, called for an end lo

Witoesses.

bodily harm.

Jehovah's

the country of a factor of the country of a factor of the second of the lovers after arriving in Britain in 1993 as students, zasiei add. in . 413 They had AIDS tests and abus to the filling . Ms. Ndagga tested positive other in Jordan and he-Late of the country for HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS, They contioued to an isee interview in so have protected sex. Then plement inside t. (S President Bott : 1) he began a relationship a among the it of with another woman and sakes to Adagna since told her he did not want to ing on his rean forest continue seeing her. la May, Ms. Ndagga told Mr. la message ne con la ing President Charters Kabagwire she was leaving a Middle East 10-70 W Britain, "She said she had a segoverals a bright and present for him and she dimore thanks to was sure he would like it." and leadership and result

Mone

B a Jordan Time Staff Reporter

MMAN - Jordan, w

on celebrates the subday of His Materia

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RMADH (Agenda) water bomb kings Amenicans and the T admounded his there the on Monday in right stated U.S. militari, ... Sed to train Sawa, Ar. Saonal Guard 17.5 or official said There are the Amora committee bash manager injured, some warner S Ambastador Baye liabus cold in a contract This was the worth a rands and will not date Wan in Saudi Arabi But the emblassy later

i'm Amendans — one a of the military and Misns - were tilled mb attack. An embassy spokes me bread one of those keep had was in fact along Mr Maybus sand the Since of the Progre Manager to the Saudi on National Guard w issaled by an "asplost

We," although other e

Jenin (R1 — Israel Judiling slain Prime M Judhak Rabin > peace m Monday, pulling of the West Bank

enin to end 28 ye Palestinians dancer onled God is greaten when the last 15 eps pulled out of n interation Organis whed in Soldiers modhye as the jeeps

Without a doubt ti Minister Yilzhak Raoi kil his life workir Palestinian thef Nasi Yousef said hand hands to comple li was the first transf

rebel Serbs control of westfertile farmland on the bor-

the Krajina region. of the text, seen by AFP.

Prominent south Sudanese

demand self-determination

The people of southern

Sudan are entitled to exercise

their fundamental rights of

reviewing the experience of

the single sovereign state and

in the light of that experience

to decide either to affirm the

unity of that state based on

one religion within a

framework of a confederal or

federal structure, or to take the second option for the

southern Sudan to become an

independent sovereign enti-

pendence had seen increasing distrust between north and

The 40 years since inde-

ty," it said.

"This is a very important

first step for the Palestinian ideotity towards the creation of an independent state of Palestine," Mr. Arafat said. "We hope that a million

> week, headed by former Swedish Justice Minister Carl Lidborn, to supervise the Sunday across the territories

A first group of 66 Euro-

pean observers arrived last

ROWN PRINCE IN BAHRAIN: The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman A

Chalifa, on Sunday receives a message from His Majesty King Hussein during a

meeting he held with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in Bahrain. The

Crown Prince began a two-day visit to Bahrain on Sunday, in the first visit to

Bahrain by a leading Jordanian figure since the 1991 Gulf war (see story on page

Arafat gets 1st Palestinian voter

card as registration is launched

executive authority. So far

Mr. Arafat is the only candi-

date for the post of president.

Authority (PNA) has laun-

ched a massive advertising

campaign in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip to persuade

the Palestinians to register on

ers have been distributed

across the territories urging

the Palestinians "Together

we will build our country."

broadcast messages through-

out the day calling on resi-

Palestinian radio also

Tens of thousands of post-

the electoral roll.

The Palestinian National

They were to be deployed

dents to cooperate with 7,000 teachers, charged with car-Candidates require the signatures of 500 supporters. rying out the registration proand those wishing to run for the head of the Palestine All Palestinians aged 18 and above will be able to take

120,000 Palestinians.

Authority need 5,000 signa-Mr. Arafat is to appoint a nine-member committee to overseas elections, and there

to monitor the registration

Union observers will be de-

ployed for the elections,

backed by about 200 others

from the United Nations, the

United States, Russia, Nor-

way, Japan, Australia, Egypt

place after the Israeli army

has withdrawn from six

Palestinian towns on the

West Bank. Under the Sept.

28 autonomy deal, troops will

remain in Hebron to protect

400 settlers living among

The elections will take

A total of 300 European

will be a 15-day period in which candidates can regis-ter. Officials said they ex-

pected nominations to be completed by Dec. 22.

ple have been killed and at least 40 others wounded in escalating violence ahead of the presidential election. A carbomb exploded

Saturday near the city hall in Ouled Yalche in southern Algeria, killing five people and wounding 40, sources in the capital confirmed Sun-

Iran has denied any in-

'We lived with the Iranians for thousands of

volvement in the protests.

years." Sheikh Khalifa said.

wars. And today we are

ready to repeat the friendship

and coexistence experi-

GCC decisions

The GCC states meanwhile

ment.

We cooperated. We fought

threat Bahrain as major sees Iran known and were there since

MANAMA (Agencies) -Bahrain's defence minister accused Iran of being a source of danger to Bahrain and urged Tehran to change lished on Sunday.

He said the challenge

would continue "unless Iran

decides to change its policy...

in occupying United Arab Emirates islands, interfering

in internal affairs of some

Gulf states and supporting

policy and we see it a direct

danger threatening all the re-

gion. This will only fade after

Iran changes its policy," the

London-based daily quoted

We do not accept this

some extremist groups."

newspaper.

him saying.

'We in Bahrain see Iran as a prime source of danger and we see the danger will continue," Major-General Sheikh Khalifa Ben Ahmad Al Khalifa told Saudi Arabian-owned Al Hayat

that the Sudanese opposition in exile, at a meeting in the Eritrean capital Asmara in June, also backed selfdetermination for the south. "We give our fullest support to the principle of selfdetermination embodied in the Asmara resolutions.

their letter said. launched consisting of racial. **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Kulang and Henry Tong. They represent a large con-

of fundamental and political freedoms, violations of human rights and economic and social marginalisation of the south, they added. "During this long period.

various governments in Khartoum formulated and implemented policies that emphasised racial, cultural, religious and linguistic assi-"And in recent years a war

of religious jihad was declared on southern Sudan and a new civilisation project was

added. The signatories are Abel Alier, vice president under Jaafar Numeiri in the 1970s. former Sudanese Minister Joseph Ukel and three men who have been ministers in the south's regional govern-ment — Ezekiel Kodi, Isaiah

religious, cultural, social and

economic components." they

stituency in southern Sudan and Abel Alier in particular commands huge respect not only in the south but also in the north.

sitional administration and an end to fighting in the south so that southerners could exercise their right to self-determination fairly and ful-

The five politicians noted

Kabul says **Talibans** pushed back

KABUL (AFP) - Afghan government troops Sunday pushed back the Taliban mili-tia besieging Kabul by 10 kilometres on a frontline west of the capital, Defence Ministry officials said.

The fresh offensive came a day after 36 civilians were killed and 52 injured according to the government, in the deadliest shelling of the capital since the rebels arrived on the outskirts of the city last

Journalists counted 21 bodies in different parts of the capital.

Taliban fighters launched the massive rocket and artillery barrage on the city after forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani repulsed attempts by the rebels to take the city of Friday. the officials said.

Officials earlier said only three people had been killed and 25 wounded in the salvos which hit the capital intermittently throughout the day.

Among the dead were a young girl and eight other people - including a movie director and his actors - who were killed when a rocket slammed into Afghanistan's only private movie studio as they filmed a scene, witnesses

Six more people died later Saturday when a rocket hit a crowded scientific training centre in a residential area. while another rocket claimed three lives when it struck a nearby house.

The remarks, the first ments," Sheikh Khalifa Tehran on low key over German vote

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran has adopted a low profile towards a German parliamentary vote to withhold an invitation to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velavati for a conference on Islam in Bonn.

Germany's Bundestag (lower house) passed a resolution. 268-225, on Friday urging the government to withdraw its invitation to Mr. Velayati for the state-hosted conference.

The vote was in reaction to Iranian President Ali Akhar Hashemi Rafsanjani's statement last week that the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was "the vengeance of God."

But Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi argued in a statement released on Sunday that "almost half' of the deputies in the German parliament had "vnted in favour" of Mr. Velayati's presence in Germany "despite the other half taking advantage of the emntinnal situation" surrounding Mr. Rabin's death.

"The challenge thrown by the German parliament lat the government) is only temporary and the country will eventually move toward independent" policies, he said in the first official reaction from Iran to the vote. Following the vote. German Fnreign Minister Klaus Kinkel decided to postpone the conference on "Europe and the Islamic World." which was to he held this Wednesday and Thursday. Besides Mr. Velayati, the foreign ministers of Bosnia-

Herzegovina, Egypt, Ituly, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia and Turkey were to participate along with 300 or so Iran News, a daily close to the Foreign Ministry, stammed the vote on Sunday but withheld any criticism of the

postponing the conference. The English-language paper published a statement on the issue from the German embassy in Ima stressing Mr. Kinkel's determination "to hold the conference as soon as possible",

German government for

The daily, however, accused the German parliament of "secking to deceive Western public opiniun" of Iran. saying the vote was the result of a "guilt feeling German lawmakers have about what their predecessors did to the Jewish community" in Ger-

Salam, a daily representing Islamic left-wingers, hit out at Germany for its "audacity to interfere in our internal affairs and make judgements about the comments of the highest executive authority in our country."

Mubarak assailant trainer gunned down

June, police said.

between Beni Sweif and Fayoum provinces, around 100 kilometres south of When they stormed his

Faris had recently slipped over the border from Sudan. where he had lived the past two years, to "coordinate hetween terrorist groups in Egypt's provinces and distrihute to them weapons smug-

Mr. Mubarak's motorcade in emerged unscathed.

of backing the attack, which was claimed by the Egyptian including the attack's master-

Khartoum denied any involvement in he attack and supporting Egypt's militants. The Egyptian authorities have cut down up to 800

Police and local council workers cleared the cane to a depth of about 200 metres each side of the track over a distance of ahout 20

Thirteen people including

since March this year. Gamaa claimed responsibility and advised all foreign tourists to leave the country

The sugarcane fields were near the town of Farshout, in the Nile Valley 450

armageddon speculacion. Man jailed for placing stepdaughter on warm stove

COPENHAGEN (AP) -

stepfather put her on the

stove because she was wet-

ting her pants.

A Danish man has been sentenced to five months in prison for putting his fouryear-old stepdaughter on a hot stove because she kept welting her pants, a news-paper said. The 37-year-old man said the girl accidentally fell on the stove, the daily Jydske Vestkysien said. Their names were not released. Doctors who examined the girl said the second-degree burns on her buttocks could only have come from being pressed down on a warm surface. the newspaper said. Three witnesses told the court in Toender, southern Denmark, that the girl said her

dynamers under Pa

Bank city since Afafat signed a line washington of sile transpared pales fine ale launched last